



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

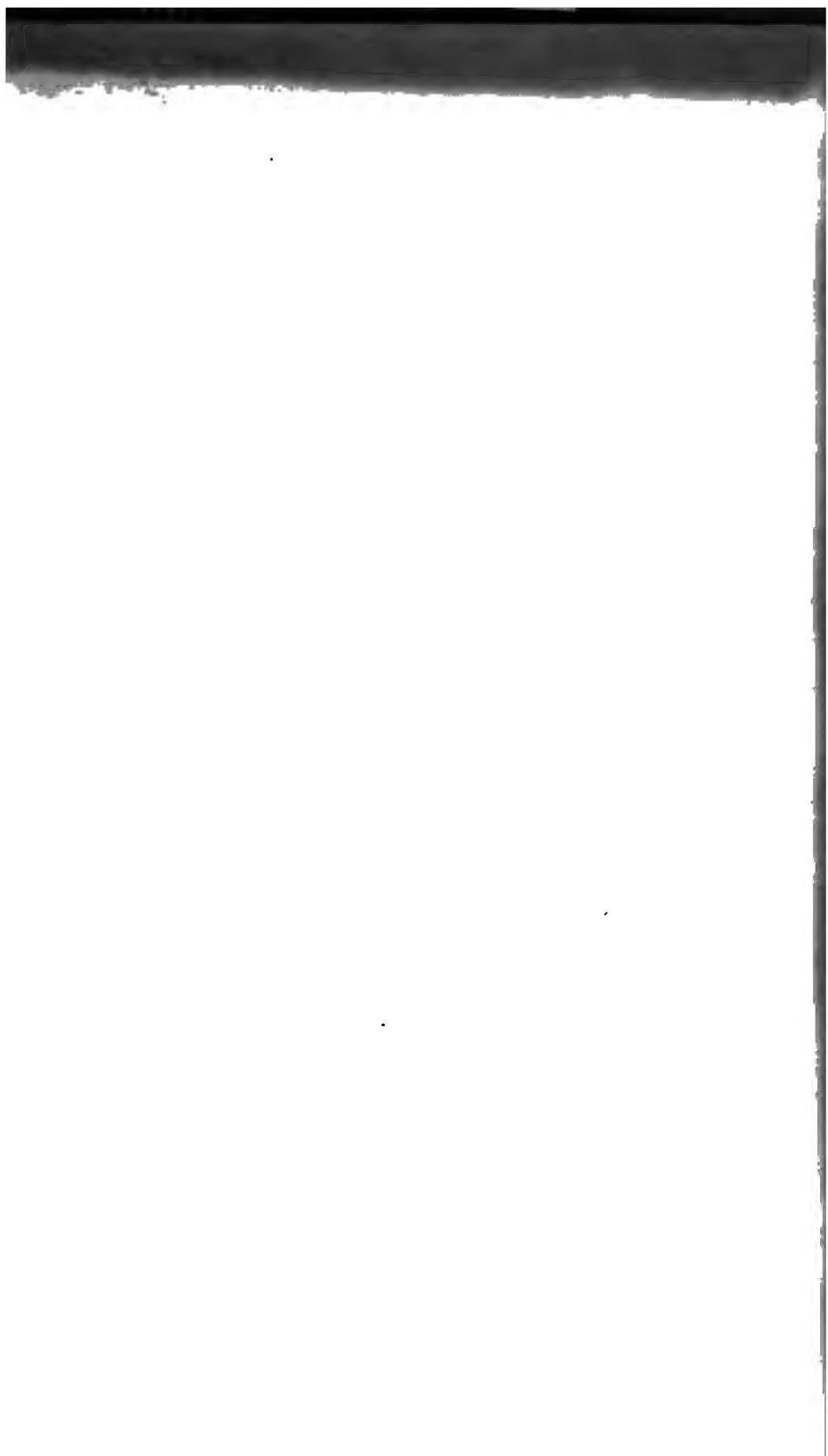




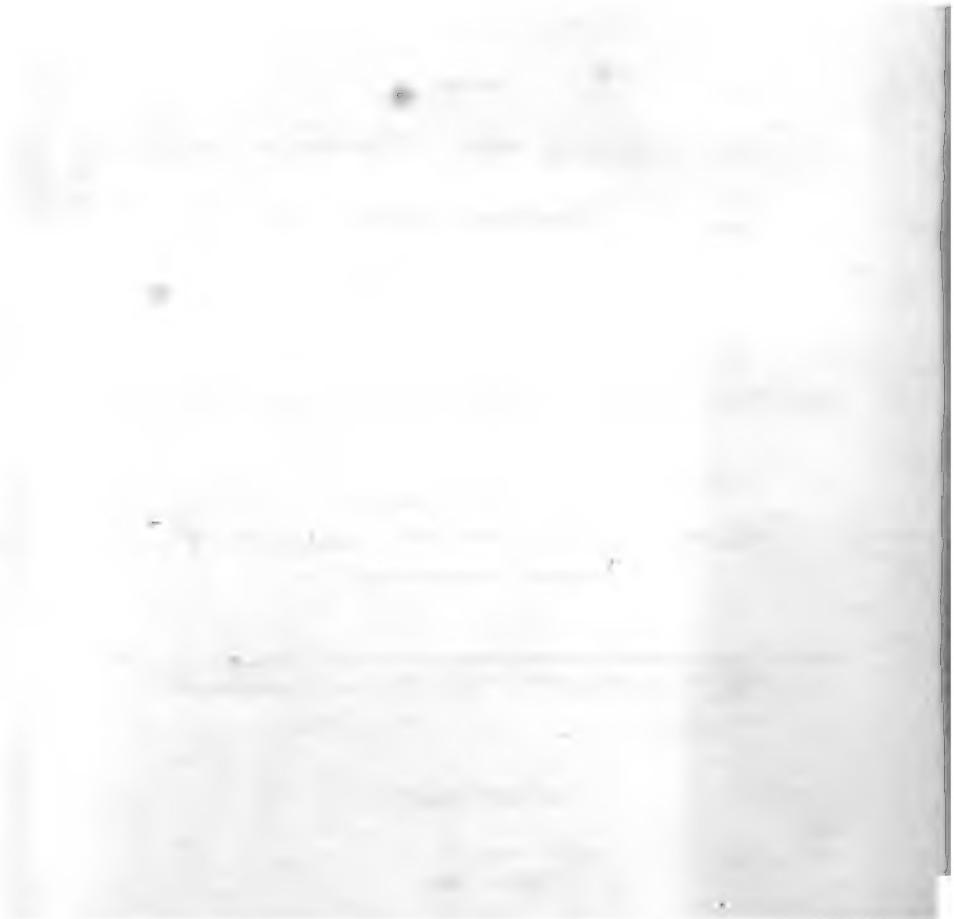
L. Eng. B. und C. Lang '72

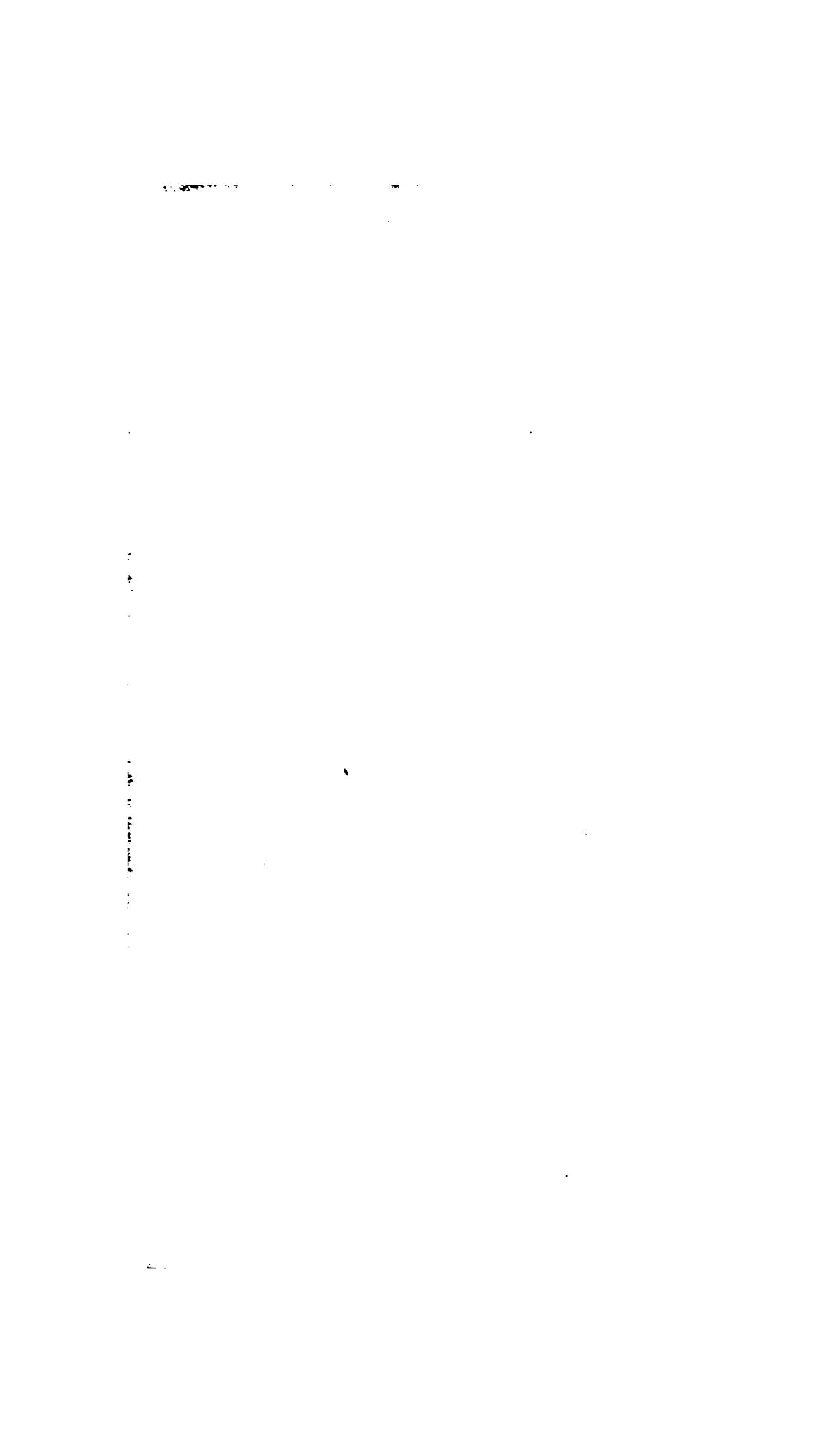
L.L.
Cw.U.K.
100

R. 55-



[REDACTED]





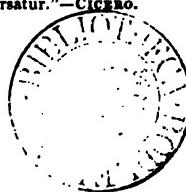
REPORTS
OF
CASES
ARGUED AND DETERMINED
IN THE
HIGH COURT OF ADMIRALTY,
COMMENCING WITH
THE JUDGMENTS
OF THE
RIGHT HON. STEPHEN LUSHINGTON.

By WILLIAM ROBINSON, D.C.L., ADVOCATE.

"*Ea verè praestabilis est scientia quae in foederibus pactionibus conditionibus populorum regum externarumque nationum in omni denique belli jure et pacis versatur.*"—CICERO.

VOLUME II.

1843—1847.



LONDON :
HENRY BUTTERWORTH, 7, FLEET STREET,
Late Bookseller and Publisher.
HODGES & SMITH, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1848.

L O N D O N:
C. ROWORTH AND SONS, PRINTERS,
BELL YARD, TEMPLE BAR.

T A B L E
O F
C A S E S R E P O R T E D.

A.		Page		Page
AGRICOLA	10		EDEN	442
ALEXANDER WISE	65		EMMA	320
ANN and MARY	195			
ANNE and JANE	98			
ATLAS	502			
			F.	
			FAMA	184
			FAVORITE	259
			FLORIDA	97
			FORTITUDE	217
			G.	
BATAVIER	407		GAZELLE	279
BETSEY	167		GAZELLE	515
BLENHEIM	421		GEORGE	386
			GIPSEY KING	537
			GLASGOW PACKET	306
			GRACES	294
			GREAT NORTHERN	509
			H.	
			HEBE	146
			HEBE	246
			HEBE	412
			HEBE	530
			HIGHLANDER	109
			HOPE	8
			I.	
			IRON DUKE	377
EBENEZER	212		ITINERANT	236

TABLE OF CASES REPORTED

J.	Page	Page	
JAMES WATT	279	PLYM	345
JESSY.....	5	PRINCESS ROYAL	373
K.			
KING WILLIAM	231	Raft of Timber	231
L.			
LOCHIEL	34	RELIANCE	119
LOSOS PACKET	213	REFUSE.....	346
LORD ACKLAND	301	REFUSE.....	398
LORD COCKRANE	320	RIB GROVE	52
LORD SEATON.....	391	ROSE	1
LOTISA	22	S.	
M.			
MARY STEWART.....	244	SARAH JANE	110
MATHESIS	287	SARACEN.....	451
MEDORA.....	69	Serhassan Pirates	354
MOYSTAINEER	7	SERINGAPATAM	506
N.			
NEW EAGLE	441	SOCIEDADE FELIZ	155
NICOLINA	175	SPEED.....	225
T.			
OCEAN	91	SWITZERLAND	482
OCEAN	368	V.	
OCEAN	429	TOWAN	259
OCEAN	465	TRAVELLER	197
P.			
PAULINE.....	358	TRITONIA	322
W.			
W.			
WATT	70		
WILLIAM.....	521		
WESTMORELAND.....	394		

TABLE
OF
CASES CITED.

A.		G.	
	Page		Page
AGRICOLA	547	GALEN	159
ALBION	25	GAZELLE	537
AUGUSTA	331, 467	Govett v. Richmond	402
		GRATITUDINE.....	489
B.		H.	
Birmingham Benefit So- ciety	374, 376	Hare v. Beckington	282
		HERO	6, 331
C.		J.	
Carruthers v. Sydebottom 443,		Jacobs v. Latour	402
447		Jesse v. Ray	120
D.		L.	
DIANA	479	Lucy v. Ingram.....	20, 443
DOWTHORPE	221, 462		
DUE GABROIDERS	158	M.	
DUKE OF SUSSEX	478	MARIA	21
		Martin v. Temperley..	443, 449
F.		M'Donald v. Josslyn....	135
FADRELANDET	158	MEDINA	477
VOL. II.		Milligan v. Wedge ...	21, 443,
			449
		b	

TABLE OF CASES CITED.

N.		S.	
	Page		Page
NEPTUNE.....	119, 441, 477	SYDNEY COVE.....	61
NORDSTERN.....	158		
		T.	
P.		Two Casks of Tallow ..	363
PACKET	488		
Palmer <i>v.</i> Blackburn....	283		
PERCY	80, 82, 221	U.	
PRINCESS ROYAL	513	UNION	158
PUBLIC OPINION.....	253		
		V.	
Rose	382, 385	VILLE DE VARSOVA	103

REPORTS
OF
CASES
IN THE
HIGH COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

THE ROSE. GILMORE.

1843.
24th January.

THIS was a cause of collision, promoted by the owners of the schooner *Regina* against this vessel, her tackle, &c., &c.

The schooner, as set forth in the act on petition, was bound on a voyage from Exmouth to Newport, in ballast, when, on the night of the 5th of October last, she was proceeding up channel, close hauled on the larboard tack, her course lying E.S.E., and the wind blowing from the N.E. or NN.E. At the distance of about half a mile, she observed a steamer coming down channel, at the rate of ten or eleven knots an hour, with mainsail, foresail, jib, and topsail set; and when the two vessels were within a quarter of a mile of each other, the master of the schooner ported her helm, hailing the steamer to do the same, but the helm of the steamer was kept astarboard, and in consequence thereof she ran stem on into the schooner.

The rule of the Trinity House to port the helm to be observed invariably in cases of steamships or other vessels meeting each other on adverse courses when there is a probable chance of collision.

The expression "giving way," means not crossing a vessel's bows, but going under her stern.—A steam vessel putting her helm astarboard condemned in the damage under the circumstances of the case.

1843.
24th January.
THE ROSE.

The defence on the part of the steamer was, that the night was dark and hazy, and the steamer had three bright lights burning, but the schooner hoisted no light. That no vessel could be seen at a greater distance than a quarter of a mile, and when first discovered, the schooner was seen one point on the starboard side of the steamer. That under the circumstances it was the duty of the Rose to bear up, and in order to do so, the master of the steamer did right in putting his helm astarboard.

The case was argued before Trinity Masters by *Addams and Pratt*, for the owners of the *Regina*.
Queen's Advocate and Elphinstone, contra.

Per Curiam.

Gentlemen,—The material facts of the case are but little disputed, and the decision must turn upon the opinion which you may entertain as to the propriety of the measures pursued by the masters of the two vessels under the circumstances disclosed in the evidence before the Court. It is not denied, that the vessel proceeded against was coming down the Bristol Channel, at the time of the collision, at the rate of between ten and eleven knots an hour; and it is further admitted, by her own evidence in the cause, that there was a considerable haze upon the water, and that no vessel could be discerned at a greater distance than a quarter of a mile. Now if the steamer, coming down the channel at the rate as stated, had run down the *Regina*, without either of the parties seeing each other, I should have taken upon myself the responsibility of saying that the Rose would have been responsible for the da-

Sembie, steam vessels not justified in going at the rate of ten knots per hour in a dark night; if a steam vessel going at that rate comes into collision with another vessel, without either party seeing each other, the steamer will be responsible for the damage.

image, and I will state the reason. It may be a matter of convenience that steam vessels should proceed with great rapidity, but the law will not justify them in proceeding with such rapidity if the property and lives of other persons are thereby endangered. I well remember a case which occurred before Lord Ellenborough, in which this principle was applied, though not in a case of collision at sea. The driver of one of the mail coaches was indicted at the Old Bailey for manslaughter, he having run over and killed a man. It was urged in his defence, that, by contract with the Post Office, he was compelled to go at the rate of nine miles an hour. Lord Ellenborough, adverting to that defence in his summing up, observed, that no contract with any public office, and no consideration of public convenience, could justify the endangering of the lives of his Majesty's subjects. The man was convicted of manslaughter, and punished. The principle so laid down by Lord Ellenborough equally applies, I apprehend, to the present case ; and therefore, if the accident had happened in the manner I have stated, I should, without asking your opinion, have considered it my duty to have condemned the owners of this steam vessel in the amount of the damages sued for upon the present occasion.

But the two vessels in this case did, as it appears, perceive each other previous to the collision taking place. How then does the case stand with respect to the measures that either party adopted in order to avoid the collision ? The *Regina* was proceeding on the larboard tack, her course being E.S.E., and going at the rate of four knots an hour against the ebb tide. As soon as he perceived the

1843.
24th January.
THO. Rose.

1849.
24th January.
—
The Rose.

steamer coming down upon him, that is, when the two vessels were half a mile distant, the master of the schooner put his helm to port, and hailed the steamer to do so likewise. The steamer, according to her own account, does not perceive the schooner until a much later period of time, and then she starboarded her helm. It has been said on behalf of the Rose, that when she first perceived the Regina, that vessel was seen one point on the starboard side of the steamer, and it has been contended that this furnishes a justifying reason why the steamer should have put her helm astarboard. That in so doing she was acting in conformity with the Trinity House regulations, inasmuch as the Regina being close hauled, and the Rose being a steamer, and going free, by so bearing up she came within the words—"giving way to a sailing vessel on a wind or either tack." It has also been contended that the Regina was in fault in not carrying a light.

With respect to the latter point, I must observe, that it has been discussed over and over again in former cases of this kind, and I believe there is no occasion in which it has been laid down as a general principle, that merchant vessels ought constantly to carry lights. Under certain circumstances, undoubtedly, it may be right and expedient to do so; and whether the Regina was bound to have carried a light or no, under the circumstances of this particular case, is a point which you will take into your consideration.

You will also have to determine whether, under the circumstances, the steamer was right in putting her helm to starboard; and whether in so doing she was giving way to a vessel on the larboard

tack, within the meaning of the rule laid down in the Trinity House regulations.

As regards the assertion that the schooner, when first observed, was seen one point on the starboard side of the steamer, it appears to me that in construing the rule laid down by yourselves, we never can, with any hope of a satisfactory result, enter into the discussion as to the precise point in which one vessel lies to another at the time of being discovered. In my humble judgment, the safe course is to hold that the rule applies on all occasions where there is a probable risk of two vessels coming into collision. You will have the goodness, gentlemen, to consider the points to which I have directed your attention, and to tell me which of the two vessels was, in your opinion, to blame.

Trinity Masters.—No blame attaches to the Regina. The expression “giving way,” means not crossing a vessel’s bows, but going under her stern. Considering the short space of time that intervened, the Regina did right in porting her helm, and the Rose was entirely in fault.

Damage pronounced for with costs.

THE JENNY. Bowack.

(*Motion.*)

24th January.

IN this case the vessel being in the port of London, and laden with a cargo of merchandize, destined on a voyage to Jamaica and back to London, the master being without funds or credit, applied to W. M., a merchant of London, for the loan of a sum of money on bottomry. The money was ad-

Query.—How far a bottomry bond given in port, prior to the commencement of a voyage, is recoverable by proceedings in the Court of Admiralty.

1843.
24th January.
THE JENNY.

vanced, and the master executed a bottomry bond in favour of W. M., for the sum of 990*l.*

The bond was made payable within sixty days after the arrival of the ship in the port of London, or at the end and expiration of six calendar months from the date of the bond.

The vessel proceeded to Jamaica, and returned to this country upon the 26th September, 1842.

A warrant of arrest was taken out against the ship, and the usual proceedings having been had, the Court was now moved by *Burnaby* to direct a decree of appraisement, and a perishable monition to issue against the ship.

Per Curiam.

I feel that some difficulty arises upon the face of this bond. The bond purports to have been given whilst the vessel was lying in port prior to the commencement of a voyage.

Burnaby.

The bond is drawn up in precisely the same terms as the bond in the case of the *Hero*. Moreover, the parties interested in the ship have had notice of this application, and no objection is raised on their behalf.

Per Curiam.

As the owners have had notice of the application, and no objection is taken on their behalf, I shall sign the *primum decretum*, and direct the decree to issue as prayed.

If any objection had been raised on behalf of the owners, I should have entertained much doubt in granting this motion.

The acquiescence of the owners relieves me from

the doubt in the present instance. I shall therefore grant the motion; but I wish it to be understood that in so doing, I give no opinion upon the question, how far a bond given in port, prior to the commencement of a voyage, is recoverable by proceedings in this Court.

*1843.
24th January.
The JENNY.*

Motion granted.

THE MOUNTAINEER. HEATON.

31st January.

IN this case the Mountaineer, a barque of 354 tons, having struck upon the Tongue Sand, and afterwards upon the shingles off Margate, upon the 8th of September last, two luggers, the Mary and the Liberty, of the joint burthen of forty-nine tons, went to her assistance; and upon the following morning, having brought out an anchor and cable, the salvors succeeded in conducting her to the North Foreland, when she was taken in tow and brought up to London by a steamer.

When two vessels come up together to render assistance to a ship in distress, all the persons composing the crews, although a part only are actually employed, are entitled to be considered as salvors.

The value of the ship, cargo and freight, was £12,000, and a tender of £120 was offered and rejected.

The case was argued by

Addams and Robinson, for the salvors.

Queen's Advocate and Elphinstone, contrà.

The Court awarded the sum of £250, and in the course of the judgment observed:—"There is much discrepancy with respect to the manner in which the services of the salvors were tendered and accepted. On the one hand, it is said by the master that he only accepted the assistance of five men, and on the other it is alleged by the salvors

1843.
31st January.
THE MOUNTAINER.

that the services of all were accepted. Now I am of opinion, that when two vessels come up together to render assistance to a ship in distress, all the persons composing the crews, although a part only are actually employed, are entitled to be considered as salvors. It is probable that, under the circumstances in which they were placed, the pilot, the master and crew were exceedingly alarmed; and I think the statement of the salvors upon this point is supported by all the facts of the case. I am of opinion that the tender is not sufficient.

31st January.

If a vessel chooses to avail herself of a particular mode of going down the river at a particular time, which renders it difficult to escape a collision, she must bear the consequences of the contingency to which she has exposed herself.

Plea, in a cause of damages, that the ship causing the collision was being warped down the river at the time, and in consequence could not get out of the way, overruled.

THE HOPE. HART.

THIS was a case of collision under the circumstances noticed in the judgment of the Court.

For the owners of the barge, *Addams*.

For the owners of the Hope, *Phillimore, A. A.,* and *Harding*.

Per Curiam.

The circumstances of this case are exceedingly few, and the question which it involves is in its nature of the very simplest kind.

The act on petition on behalf of the plaintiff, which is very properly confined to the facts which occurred at the time of the collision, states that the barge was coming up the river Thames with the tide, whilst the schooner was going down the river against the tide, with a south-west or favourable wind, and instead of getting out of the way, as she ought to have done, she ran into the barge stem on. The defence to the action contains no

direct denial of this averment. The answer of the schooner is, that the barge had but one man on board ; but by the evidence it is proved that there were two. It also further alleges, that the schooner was incapable of getting out of the way, because she was warped ; and the answer concludes with a vast deal of irrelevant matter, setting forth alleged conversations which took place on the occasion, to the effect that the amount of damage was estimated at about £6, and that an offer was made to accept that sum, but without prejudice, as a compensation for the damage in question. Now assuming that the tender was made as stated, it is impossible that I could take any notice of it in these proceedings. The Court has no materials whereon to form a judgment as to whether it is equal to the damage which has been sustained ; and even if it had, the course of justice would require that it should be referred to the registrar to ascertain the fact. With respect to the argument which has been urged, that cases have occurred in which such tenders have been admitted in salvage cases, it is to be observed that the distinction between salvage and damage by collision is superabundant. Moreover, even in cases of salvage, a tender would not be binding or conclusive unless it were made in Court.

Dismissing, therefore, from my consideration the averments, in the answer to which I have adverted, the only point to be decided is who is to blame. The defendant has made an admission in his own plea, from which it is to be inferred that the damage was occasioned by himself. Does then the asserted fact, that the schooner was incapable of getting out of the way because she was warped,

1843.
31st January.
The Hon.

1843.
81st January.
 THE HORN.

supply a sufficient exculpation to relieve the owners from making the indemnification which is claimed by the plaintiff in these proceedings? I am clearly of opinion that it does not. If a vessel chooses to avail herself of a particular mode of going down the river at a particular time, which renders it difficult to escape collision, if a collision does take place, she must bear the consequences of a contingency to which she has exposed herself. I therefore pronounce for the damage, and refer the amount to the registrar and merchants, and I must give the plaintiff his costs.

81st January.

In the case of a vessel taking up her berth in dock, the time and manner of dropping the anchor is exclusively within the province of the pilot.

Defence in a cause of damage upon this ground sustained in the case of a vessel entering the port of Liverpool and running foul of another vessel.—Construction of Liverpool Pilot Act and the General Pilot Act, as laid down in the cases of the Maria and the Protector, supported.

THE AGRICOLA. GRAYSON.

THIS was a cause of collision promoted by the owners of the schooner the Don against this vessel, her tackle, &c.

The act on petition on behalf of the owners of the Don in substance pleaded.—That the Don arrived off the King's Dock basin, at Liverpool, about noon on the 7th September last. That whilst in the act of warping into the dock, the master was ordered to drop astern, so as to permit an outward bound vessel to pass, which order was obeyed, the sails being at such time furled under the pier dock master's direction. That subsequent to the passing of the vessel, and whilst the crew were making every dispatch to dock her, the barque Agricola suddenly appeared in sight, running under sail into the basin at the rate of about six miles per hour, having both the wind and tide strong in her favour; that she so continued running without letting go her anchor un-

til she had got close upon the Don, and in consequence of such neglect on her part, not having been checked in time, ran full speed into the Don, doing the damage, &c.

1848.
31st January.
THE AGRICOLA.

On the part of the Agricola it was pleaded in answer, that when off Point Lynas a duly licensed Liverpool pilot was taken on board the Agricola, who took charge of the vessel and proceeded with her up to Liverpool. That at the time the barque rounded the rock, all her sails were furled with the exception of the foretop sail, which was double reefed. That as the barque proceeded up the river Mersey under the charge of the pilot, the foretop sail was by his direction clued up snug, previous to running into dock. That as the barque neared the entrance of the King's Dock basin, into which the pilot intended to take her, he, as well as the master and crew, saw a vessel moored to the north pier-head, and when they rounded her and were about to run into the basin, they saw for the first time the schooner Don lying right athwart the basin. That although the pilot, master, and crew of the Agricola had kept a good look-out, it was impossible for them to see the schooner until they were at the entrance of the basin, as the tobacco warehouses and the vessels lying at the entrance obstructed the view. That the schooner was lying in an improper position, viz., close to the entrance of the basin, and right across it, her stern being within ten or twelve yards of the south wall, and with two hawsers out, which were fastened to the north pier-head. That the barque was in the entrance of the basin almost the moment those on board her saw the schooner. That it was impossible to let go the anchor of the barque in the entrance of the basin, as there is not

1843.
31st January.
THE AGRICOLA.

sufficient room for a vessel to swing between the pier-heads, but immediately on her getting inside, the crew of the barque let go the best bower, and fearing she could not be brought up in time, they put the helm hard aport, to endeavour to clear the schooner by going between her and the south wall, but the barque had so much way upon her, and the chain ran out so quickly, that before she could be brought up she struck the schooner on her larboard bow, and then ran against the south wall of the basin, where she was brought up. That the collision was imputable to the mismanagement of the Don in taking up the position which she did across the basin, and not to any one on board the Agricola, or if so, the same was occasioned by the default of the pilot, who was in sole charge of the barque. That by reason of the premises and of the provisions of the Liverpool Pilot Act, 5 Geo. IV. cap. 73. sec. 25, and of the General Pilot Act, in that case made and provided, the owners of the Agricola are not answerable for the damage, &c., &c.

A reply was given in on behalf of the owners of the Don, denying that the vessel was in an improper position as pleaded; also denying that the Pilot Acts pleaded in the answer of the Agricola applied under the circumstances of the case.

The case was argued upon the merits before Trinity Masters by

Queen's Advocate and *Addams* for the owners of the Don.

Haggard and *Bayford* for the owners of the Agricola.

The Trinity Masters were of opinion that the Don was anchored in a proper situation, under the direction of the dock-master; and that the blame was

attributable to the *Agricola*. Being expressly asked to give their decision upon the point, the Trinity Masters were further of opinion that the pilot on board the *Agricola* was solely responsible for the accident.

1843.
81st January.
THE AGRICOLA.

The question was subsequently raised upon the point of law, how far the statutes pleaded sustained the claim of the *Agricola* to an exemption from liability, and upon this point the Court delivered the following judgment.

JUDGMENT—*Dr. Lushington.*

I have already in former instances been called upon to consider the construction of the Pilot Acts, and in so doing, I had occasion to refer to the previous decisions which had been made with regard to those Acts. In referring to those decisions, it was my misfortune to find that the interpretations put upon the statutes had not been uniform or consistent; and in this conflict of authorities in the cases of the *Protector* and the *Maria*, I felt myself bound to form my own opinion, and having bestowed the most anxious consideration upon the subject, to determine the question according to the best of my own judgment. It would not, I think, tend to throw any light upon the present case if I were to repeat the observations which I made in deciding those cases. Thus much, however, I may premise, in approaching the consideration of the question which I have now to determine, viz., that I shall continue to adopt the principles of law which I laid down in the cases of the *Protector* and the *Maria*, until my decision in those cases is overruled by a superior court, and by those principles I shall be guided in determining the present

1848.
31st January.

THE AGRICOLA.

case, unless any novelty should be found in its circumstances to raise a distinction in its favour.

What then are the facts of the case as they are disclosed in the evidence before the Court? The mate of the *Agricola* states, in his affidavit, that the vessel having arrived from Calcutta in the river Thames, was proceeding from the Thames to the port of Liverpool; and it is to be collected from the affidavit of the dock-master, that at the time she entered the port of Liverpool she was in ballast. It also further appears, that when entering the port of Liverpool, the master of the *Agricola* took a licensed pilot on board; that the collision in question occurred whilst such pilot was on board, and, in the judgment of the Trinity Masters, by whom the Court was assisted when the case was heard upon its merits, such collision was occasioned entirely by the default of the pilot alone, and was not in any degree to be attributed to the misconduct or negligence of the master and crew.

This point was expressly submitted by the Court to the consideration of the Trinity Masters, and they were of opinion that the whole blame lay with the pilot, and for this obvious reason, namely, that the collision arose from the course pursued by the *Agricola* in dropping her anchor on entering the port; and it was the exclusive duty of the pilot to decide upon the proper time and manner in which the anchor should be dropped. Under this state of circumstances, the question now arises, whether or not, under the Liverpool Pilot Act, or by the General Pilot Act, the owners of the *Agricola* are to be relieved from their liability to make good the loss which has been occasioned? In the act on petition, the owners of the *Agricola* have set forth

the ground of their asserted exemption in the following terms : " That under the provisions of the Liverpool Pilot Act, 5 George IV. cap. 73, sect. 25, and also the General Pilot Act in that case made and provided, the owners of the *Agricola* are not liable," &c. From these words, therefore, it is obvious, that the Act 5 Geo. IV. is specifically referred to as a ground of defence, and the attention of the Court is directly called to it. It is also equally clear, that the defence is not rested exclusively upon the Liverpool Pilot Act alone, but upon the Liverpool Act in conjunction with the General Pilot Act. In arguing the case, the same course of argument was pursued as was adopted in the cases of the *Protector* and the *Maria*; and the authority of the cases *Carruthers v. Sidebottom*, and the *Attorney-General v. Case* was again referred to.

The first question then which I have to consider is this ; whether under the provisions of the Liverpool Pilot Act, the master of the *Agricola* was bound to take a pilot or not ? The Court has been referred to the various sections of this Act ; and looking more immediately to the words of the 25th section, it is abundantly clear, that under that particular section, the master of the *Agricola*, being the master of a vessel inward bound, in the absence of a licensed pilot on board, would have been liable to pay full pilotage dues, unless his vessel was in ballast at the time of entering the port of Liverpool, and employed in the coasting trade. It is to be especially noticed, that both these particulars should be combined, in order to take away the penalty of full pilotage payment in the case of an inward bound vessel entering the port of Liverpool without a licensed pilot on board. How far

1843.
31st January.
THE AGRICOLA.

1848.
31st January.
THE AGRICOLA.

are these essential facts established in the present instance? Looking to the pleadings in the cause, I do not find them in any manner specifically set forth by the owners of the Don. They have contented themselves with simply denying that the 25th section of the Liverpool Pilot Act, and also the General Pilot Act, as pleaded, applies in this case; and their plea is defective in this respect, inasmuch that if it was intended to deprive the owners of the Agricola of their exemption from liability under the statute, upon the ground that the pilot was voluntarily, and not compulsorily taken on board, it should have been expressly pleaded, that the Agricola, although inward bound, was not compellable to take a pilot on board, because she was in ballast, and was engaged in the coasting trade. How then does the matter stand upon the evidence before the Court? That the Agricola was in ballast at the time, must, I think, be considered as sufficiently established by the affidavit of the dock-master, for this was a fact within his own immediate knowledge, and his assertion of this fact is altogether uncontradicted. With respect to the further averment to be found in his affidavit, "*that she had just arrived from a coasting voyage,*" I am not disposed to place the same reliance upon the assertion of this witness, and for this reason, viz., that his information upon this point could only have been derived from the representation of others. If, therefore, there is any other evidence upon this point, to that evidence I must resort. Now the chief mate of the Agricola, in his affidavit, states to this effect: "That he shipped on board the vessel, and proceeded in her on two voyages; first, to Rio Janeiro and Calcutta, and back to London; and secondly, to

Port Philip and Calcutta, and thence back to London ; and afterwards from London to Liverpool.

Does this representation of the employment of the vessel bring it within the description of a coasting vessel, or of the principle upon which the masters of vessels engaged in the coasting trade are exempted from the necessity of taking a pilot on board ? I am of opinion that it does not. In my apprehension, the principle upon which vessels engaged in the coasting trade are so exempted is this. That the masters of such vessels, from their occupation and experience, are supposed to be so familiarly acquainted with the English coasts, that it would be superfluous and oppressive upon the owners to impose upon them the necessity of employing a pilot on board. This consideration, it seems to me, could not, by any fair application of the principle, attach to the master of the *Agricola*, who, according to the testimony of the mate, had been employed for a length of time in voyages to foreign and far distant countries, and who, as far as the evidence goes, does not appear to have been engaged in the coasting trade at all. It has been suggested in the argument, by the counsel for the owners of the *Don*, that the *Agricola*, having discharged the whole of her cargo in London, had completed the voyage from Calcutta in which she was engaged. That the voyage from London to Liverpool was consequently to be considered as a new and distinct voyage, and, being from one port of England to another, was fairly within the designation of a coasting voyage. Now, in one sense of the phrase, undoubtedly a voyage from one port in England to another may perhaps be properly described as a coasting voyage ; but, looking to the

1843.
3rd January.
THE AGRICOLA.

1843.
31st January.
THE AGRICOLA.

general intention of the legislature, and also to the more immediate wording of the 25th section of the statute 5 & 6 G. IV. cap. 75, I am clearly of opinion that the voyage of this vessel from London to Liverpool, in the statutory definition of the term, cannot be considered a coasting voyage, so as to bring it within the exception marked out by the 25th section. The meaning of the expression "coasting voyage," in that section, according to my interpretation of the term, is to be confined to a trading from one British port to another. If this be so, the master of the *Agricola*, in case he had refused to receive a pilot on board, would have been liable to the payment of full pilotage dues, under the provisions of the 25th section of the Act. He would, moreover, have been subjected to a further penalty under the provisions of the 20th section, the words of which are these: "shall make a signal, and take a pilot, or be liable to a penalty of £5. Being then of opinion that the master of the *Agricola* was compelled to take a pilot, I have now to consider how far the owners of this vessel are exonerated from the consequences of such pilot's misconduct. In the investigation of this point in the case, I must look to the General Pilot Act, 6 G. IV. cap. 175. The Liverpool Pilot Act contains no express exoneration, and no construction has been put upon that Act that, *per se*, it confers upon the owners any exemption from liability. The question then arises, is this responsibility taken away by the General Pilot Act? This question is obviously attended with no little difficulty, and for this reason, viz., that it has already been raised before the Court of King's Bench and the Court of Exchequer, and the judges of those

Courts entertained very different conclusions with respect to the construction of the Act of Parliament; the Court of King's Bench holding that the general Act did operate upon the Liverpool Act, the Court of Exchequer as clearly holding that it did not. In determining this question in reference to the present case, I shall adopt the same course which I pursued in the case of the *Maria*, and, without taking upon myself the difficult task of deciding upon the conflicting opinions of such high authorities as the Court of King's Bench and the Court of Exchequer, I shall be guided by the general principle upon which my judgment was founded in the case of the *Maria*, viz., that wherever a man is compelled by the law to employ a particular individual in the performance of a given service, the law (which imposes the obligation upon him) must take away his responsibility for the acts of that individual whom he is so compelled to employ. Applying this principle to the circumstances of the case before me, I am of opinion that the defence of the owners of the *Agricola* is a valid defence, and that they have established their exemption from the responsibility of this collision.

Before I close my observations upon this case, I will shortly advert to an argument which has been urged by the counsel for the owners of the *Agricola*, that even if the taking a pilot on board was not compulsory, yet, if a pilot should be taken in pursuance of the provisions of an Act of Parliament, the liability of the owners, upon general principle, is thereby discharged. In support of this position, the Court was referred to the decision in the case of *Lucy v. Ingram*. Reference was also

1843.
31st January.
THE AGRICOLA.

1843.
31st January.
The Agricola.

made to the case of *Milligan v. Wedge*, reported in the 12th volume of Adolphus and Ellis's Reports. Now, in the case of *Lucy v. Ingram* (a), a pilot was taken voluntarily by the master of a vessel, and as such pilot was taken under the provisions of the statute, he being compellable to go on board if required, and the 55th section of the Act having directed that no person shall be responsible for the acts of a pilot taken on board under the provisions of the statute, the Court of Exchequer was of opinion that, although the master was not compelled to take the pilot, yet being taken by virtue of the statutory enactment, the owners were not responsible for the acts of such pilot. The case, therefore, of *Lucy v. Ingram*, is clearly distinguishable from the case suggested, and I am not prepared to extend the principle upon which that case was decided to the case of a pilot voluntarily taken on board under the provisions of the Liverpool Pilot Act, unless the Act of 6 G. IV. applies to that Act. Assuming that it does not apply, I am not prepared to say that if the pilot had been voluntarily taken on board this vessel, the owners would not be responsible for the acts of that pilot. If the doctrine contended for be true, that the responsibility would not attach upon general principle, the discussions in the Courts of King's Bench and the Exchequer would have been unnecessary; and looking to the persons by whom the question was argued and determined in those Courts, the Chief Baron Thompson being one of the judges, than whom a more careful judge never sat upon the bench, I cannot but think that if such an argument

(a) In the Court of Exchequer.

would have held good, it would have been noticed in the argument of counsel, or adverted to in the judgment of the Court.

With respect to the case of *Milligan v. Wedge*, I do not think that case will bear out the proposition in support of which it has been cited.

In that case, the purchaser of a bullock employed a licensed drover to drive it from Smithfield to the butcher's shop. The drover employed a boy, and mischief was occasioned through the careless driving of the boy so employed. The Court held that the purchaser was not liable for the damage, and for this reason, viz., that by the bye-laws of London he was compelled to employ the licensed drover in the first instance; he had therefore no choice as to whom he should employ. Between that case, therefore, and the present case there is this distinction, that in the present case the owners of the *Agricola* might by law have employed their own master in navigating their vessel, subject to the penalties to which I have already adverted. In the case of *Milligan v. Wedge*, the purchaser was, *ex necessitate*, compelled to employ the licensed drover. The principle therefore upon which that case was determined, does not apply in the present case. In deciding the present question, my judgment is founded solely upon the principle which I laid down in the case of the *Maria*, viz., that the master of the *Agricola* was bound to take the pilot on board, and the collision having been occasioned entirely by the misconduct of that pilot, the owners of the *Agricola* cannot be made responsible. I therefore dismiss them from this suit.

Haggard. With costs?

Per Curiam. No, not with costs.

1843.
31st January.
THE AGRICOLA.

THE LOUISA.

1843.
10th February.

(*Motion.*)

In apportioning a salvage award, the Court will not consider itself bound by an agreement made out of Court between the owners and crew prior to the time when the salvage service was rendered.

A scale of apportionment drawn up under such an agreement overruled, and a fresh apportionment made by the Court.

THIS was a question as to the apportionment of a salvage remuneration awarded by the Court to the owners and crews of three fishing smacks.

The case, which was a case of derelict, was argued upon its merits, in Michaelmas Term, 1842, when the Court awarded the sum of £1200, the admitted value of the ship and cargo being £4000. It appeared that at the time of hiring the crews articles were drawn up by the owners, and signed by the men, containing an agreement respecting the relative apportionment of all salvage awards between the owners and the crew. In pursuance of that agreement in this case, being a case of derelict, a particular scale of apportionment had been drawn up by the agent for the owners and crews, allotting £2 to each of the mates, and £1 to each of the seamen, in addition to the sums which they were entitled to receive under the articles. It also further appeared that an extra allotment had been made to the apprentices who were on board at the time of the salvage, and that payments had been made to them in advance, which it was alleged could not be legally recovered. Under these circumstances, the scale of apportionment, drawn up by the agent, was brought in annexed to an affidavit, and the Court was moved to confirm the same, and direct the sum to be paid out of the registry to be distributed accordingly.

Per Curiam.

An affidavit has been made in this case, to which

I must advert, before I proceed to state my opinion upon the question which I have now more immediately to determine. The affidavit is made by Mr. Hewitt, who describes himself as the agent of the owners and crews of the three smacks, and he states that, in his character of agent, he has apportioned the salvage allotment already decreed by the Court, according to the terms of an agreement made between the owners and the crew of the salving vessel at the time of hiring; and in apportioning the same he has allotted the sum of £2 to each of the mates, and £1 to each of the seamen, in addition to the sum which they would be entitled to receive under the articles. He also further states, that a proportionate additional allotment has been made to the apprentices who were on board the smacks at the time of the salvage; and that he has himself made sundry payments to these apprentices in advance upon such allotment, and that it will be impossible for him legally to recover the repayment of these advances.

Now the first question which I have to consider in reference to this affidavit is this. Am I, in the judgment which I am now to pronounce, bound and concluded by the articles which are so stated to have been entered into between the owners and crews of these vessels? It would, I conceive, be repugnant to general principles, and highly prejudicial to the public interests, if such a proposition could be legally maintained in cases of this description. What would be the effect of it? The effect would be to take away from actual salvors the motives to all enterprise and energy. Until, therefore, I am compelled by superior authority, I never will consider articles of this nature, made previous

1848.
10th February.
THE LOUISA.

1843.
10th February.
The Louisa.

to the performance of the salvage service, binding and conclusive upon my judgment. I will now very shortly advert to the original decree of the Court, and to the scale of apportionment which has been brought in annexed to the affidavits in the case. When this cause was heard upon its merits in the first instance, the Court allotted a sum of £1200, with a direction that £20 should be retained for the purpose of indemnifying the crew of the vessel saved for certain articles of clothing, which had been left on board when the vessel was abandoned, and which it would seem had been appropriated by the salvors in the performance of the salvage service. The original sum therefore to be distributed was £1180; but from this sum a further deduction has been made of £82 for agency expenses, leaving the net sum, upon which I am now asked to decree an apportionment, in the amount of £1100. As the deduction for the agent's expenses has not been objected to, I shall make no particular observation upon it. Thus much, however, I may state: that if the Court were called upon to give an opinion upon a deduction of this kind, I should undoubtedly refer the consideration of the matter to the registrar and merchants.

I now come to the scale of apportionment, upon which I am asked to decree the distribution of the remaining £1100; and certainly, looking to former precedents and to the circumstances of this particular case, I feel that in affirming the arrangement, I should act in violation of all precedent, and in contradiction to the rules and principles which have been laid down by former judges of this Court in cases of this description. I have

referred to a variety of cases in which salvage remuneration has been apportioned by the learned judges who have preceded me in this chair, and I find that the utmost amount ever decreed to the owners has been a moiety of the sum awarded. In the case of the Albion, which was one of the last cases decided by Sir John Nicholl, that learned judge had to consider the apportionment of a salvage award between the owners, master, and crew under circumstances much resembling the present case; for it was a case of a vessel engaged in the occupation of fishing. In delivering his judgment, Sir J. Nicholl drew a distinction between steam vessels and other vessels, and he allotted to the owners seven twentieths, observing at the time that if a scheme for the apportionment of salvage could be agreed upon by counsel, he would make it a rule of Court. I extremely doubt, in my own mind, whether it would be practicable, looking at the varying circumstances of this class of cases, to establish any rule of Court on the subject which could be binding in all cases. It is necessary to look to the particular services rendered in each case, and then to apportion the salvage reward according to the facts and circumstances emerging from that investigation. If the service has been rendered at great loss or risk to the vessel herself, the owners of that vessel are fairly entitled to a greater proportion of reward than when she is merely auxiliary to the service.

What then are the circumstances of the present case? The sum to be apportioned has been divided by the agent into 300 shares, and of these shares seventy shares have been apportioned to each of the owners of the three smacks, giving to these

1843.
10th February.
THE LOUISA.

1848.
1st February.
The Louisa.

owners the sum of £786 12s., out of a gross total of £1180; in other words, nearly two thirds of the whole salvage remuneration. The scale of allotment then gives to each of the three masters ten shares, amounting to £109 16s.; to the three mates five shares each, amounting to £54; to five seamen, each five shares, amounting to £91 10s.; and lastly, to thirteen apprentices each a share and a half, amounting to £73 4s. Such is the arrangement proposed in the scale of apportionment which has been drawn out for the Court's acceptance, and to which, as I have already stated, I do not feel myself justified in yielding my concurrence. I have been reminded of the occupation of the three vessels engaged in this service, and it has also been urged upon the Court that partial advances have been made by the agent in pursuance of the proposed arrangement, and that great difficulty will be experienced by Mr. Hewitt in recovering from the apprentices, who are minors, the money which has been advanced. Of the latter circumstance I can take no notice in the present instance: if the agent has made the asserted payments in his own wrong, and at his own risk and hazard, he must also take the risk of recovering it from the parties to whom such payments have been made. I have taken into my consideration the fact that the three vessels were engaged in fishing at the time, and I am of opinion now, as I was formerly, when I apportioned the salvage award in the case of the Devon, that the owners of fishing vessels are entitled to a more liberal allotment than the owners of other vessels, because their occupation is interrupted, and secondly, because the expense of navigating them is larger than in ordinary cases, so far

as regards the wages of the mariners. Taking, then, the case of the *Deveron* as my guide, I shall adopt the same rule as I pursued in that case with regard to the owners. In that case, £1600 was awarded, and I gave the owners £700, or seven sixteenth shares. The same proportion I now allot to the owners of the three fishing smacks. With regard to the proportions of the masters, mates, seamen, and apprentices, I am not inclined on the present occasion to disturb the arrangement with which they are themselves satisfied. The apportionment then will be as follows:—

To the owners . . .	£480	7	6
To the 3 masters . . .	205	17	6
To the 3 mates . . .	102	18	9
To the 5 seamen . . .	171	11	3
To the 13 apprentices	137	5	0

I shall only allow the money to be paid out according to this scale of distribution, and there must be a fresh power of attorney from the parties interested authorizing the receipt of the same, and the parties must have full knowledge of all the present circumstances.

THE COLUMBINE. Norwood.

10th February.

THIS was a cause promoted by the Trustees of the Newcastle General Shipping Company, the owners of the Brig *Undaunted*, against the *Columbine*, her tackle, &c., for damage by collision at sea.

The act on petition on behalf of the *Undaunted* in substance pleaded:—That on the 23rd September last the Brig sailed from London in ballast, bound

Trinity-House regulation upheld.

Defence of a steamer for not porting her helm overruled, and damages pronounced for.

1843.
10th February.
THE COLUM-
BINE.

to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and having encountered contrary winds, arrived in the Swin about six o'clock, P. M., of the 2nd October following, where she cast anchor at low water, intending, when the ebb tide again commenced, to proceed on her voyage. That about half-past twelve o'clock A.M. of the following day, the anchor was weighed, and the said vessel stood N.W. by N. for about ten minutes, when she tacked and stood on the larboard tack close hauled upon the wind, with all her sails set, lying E. by S., the wind blowing a moderate breeze from the N.E. by N., and the said vessel going through the water about three and a half knots. That the night was fine and clear, and vessels under sail could be seen about a mile distant, and that a good look-out was kept by the crew—all hands, with the exception of the mate, who was sick below, being on deck, and the master at the helm. That about five minutes before one, A.M., a steam vessel (the vessel proceeded against) was observed by the master and crew coming in an opposite direction about one point and a half on the brig's larboard bow, to wit, E. half N., and going at the rate of about ten knots. That the brig continued her course, her master and crew loudly hailing those on board the steamer to warn them of the brig's approach; but notwithstanding such hailing, the steamer, instead of altering her course, closed in upon the brig, and a collision being thereby inevitable, in order to prevent the steamer from running the brig down, the helm of the brig was starboarded; but the steamer, however, struck the brig a violent blow on the starboard bow, carrying away her jib-boom, and greatly damaging her bowsprit and hull, &c. That the

blame of such collision is wholly imputable to the persons on board the steamer, &c. &c.

The reply on behalf of the Columbine set forth :—That the steamer was on a voyage from Rotterdam to London, when about three-quarters past twelve o'clock, A.M., on the morning of the 3rd of October, the morning being dark and somewhat hazy, the Columbine being in the Swin, off the Essex coast, between the Sunk Sand and the Gunfleet Sand, and nearly abreast of the Gunfleet beacon, about four or five miles above the Sunk Light, and steering w. half s., observed the Undaunted between two and three points on her starboard bow, steering upon the wind, and distant from the Columbine three or four vessels' length, and which could not have been seen at any greater distance on account of the darkness and the haziness of the weather, the brig not having any light hoisted. That a good look-out was kept on board the Columbine by the watch on deck, consisting of the master, who was upon the quarter-deck near the wheel, a seaman at the wheel, the second mate upon the bridge between the paddle boxes, and two seamen at the forecastle on the bows, with an engineer at his post in the engine room, and a man over the engine to convey orders to the engineer. That the Columbine had at the time three lights hoisted—two at the cross trees at the mast head, and one under the bows—which lamps, from their size and brilliancy, were plainly visible at a considerable distance, and by which a vessel coming in an opposite direction, and keeping a good look-out, might have ascertained the course which the Columbine was steering in sufficient time to have regulated her own course accordingly. That on

1843.
10th February.
THE COLUMBINE.

1843.
10th February.
THE COLUM-
BINE.

the brig being seen on the starboard bow of the Columbine, she was loudly hailed to put her helm hard astarboard, and the helm of the Columbine was immediately starboarded ; and orders were given by the commander of the Columbine to stop the engines, and these orders were instantly obeyed. That had the brig's helm been put astarboard when she was hailed to that effect, and which, from her being under complete command, in the then state of the wind, she could have done, no collision would have ensued. That no hailing by those on board the brig was heard by the crew on the deck of the Columbine, until after the collision had taken place ; and if the Columbine, instead of altering her course, had closed in upon the brig as alleged, the Columbine must have struck the brig upon the larboard bow, instead of the brig, as the fact was, striking the Columbine on the starboard side. That the said collision was occasioned solely by the negligence and misconduct of those on board the brig, &c.

The case was argued before Trinity Masters, by *Haggard and Robertson* for the Undaunted. *Addams and Robinson, contra.*

Per Curiam.

In the course of the argument which has been addressed to the Court by the counsel for the Columbine, it has been urged in the present instance that the burthen of proof, in cases of this kind, rests upon those who prefer the claim to be indemnified for the damage which has been occasioned by the collision. This position is undoubtedly true to a certain extent ; at the same time it is also equally

true, that if a defence is set up by the vessel proceeded against, the owners of that vessel, in order to establish their exemption, must prove the facts upon which they rely for their defence. Bearing in mind this consideration, Gentlemen, let us now examine some of the facts of the case as they are stated in the evidence before the Court, and then let us consider what is the proper conclusion to be deduced, both as regards your nautical knowledge, and the inference which the law would draw from them. It is stated on behalf of the Undaunted, "that on the morning of the 3rd of October she weighed anchor, and after having stood for a short time to the n.w. by w., she tacked and stood on the larboard tack close hauled, her course lying e. by s., and the wind blowing a moderate breeze from the n.e. by n., the said snow going at the time at the speed of about three and a half knots." This statement on behalf of the Undaunted is not impugned. I will now advert to the position of the Columbine, as it is represented in the statement of the owners of that vessel. From their own statement it appears that the steamer at the time in question was in the Swin, off the Essex coast, between the Sunk Sand and the Gunfleet Sand, and was nearly abreast of the Gunfleet beacon, steering a course w. half s., and running at the rate of about seven knots. It appears, therefore, that the Undaunted was proceeding down the river close hauled, and the steamer was coming up the river with the wind abaft her beam ; and such being the respective positions of the two vessels, it is obvious that, under the circumstances, the general rule of navigation would be that the steamer must give way. This has indeed been admitted by

1848.
10th February.
THE COLUMBINE.

1843.
10th February.
THE COLUMBINE.

the counsel for the Columbine, but the defence which they have set up is rested upon several grounds; first, it has been contended that the night was so dark that the crew of the Columbine (supposing them to have kept a good look-out) could not descry the Undaunted at a greater distance than three or four ships' lengths; and secondly, that when first discovered, the Undaunted was seen two or three points on the starboard bow, and therefore they were justified in starboarding and putting their helm to port. It has also been argued that, even if this defence should fail, the Undaunted was also to blame in omitting to hoist a light when she first perceived the Columbine, and in that she ought to have starboarded her helm sooner. The defence of the Columbine then divides itself into two parts:—a case of necessity, in which the master of that vessel adopted the best measures in his power to avoid the accident in question,—and a charge against the Undaunted. Let us now see how far the facts of the case will bear out the conduct of the Columbine. It is admitted that she starboarded her helm, and that she called upon the Undaunted to starboard her helm likewise, contrary to the general rules of navigation. With respect to the darkness of the night, the witnesses for the Columbine are somewhat at variance with each other. The master in his evidence describes the night as dark and somewhat hazy. This is the sum total of his representation. Some of the other witnesses, again, say that it was very dark; but they are directly contradicted by the witnesses on the part of the Undaunted, who depose that it was a clear night. Assuming for the moment that the master's representation is correct,

and that the night was rather hazy, I cannot but think that if a good look-out had been kept on board the Columbine, she ought to have perceived the Undaunted at a somewhat greater distance than is described in the proceedings in this cause. Again; with respect to another ground of justification set up by the owners of the Columbine, that when first descried the Undaunted was seen from the starboard side of the Columbine. For the purpose of doing perfect justice to the Columbine, I will assume that she actually did see the Undaunted from two to three points upon her starboard bow. Does that make any difference? In my opinion, subject to your better judgment, it does not. This point has been discussed in this Court more than once, in former cases of this kind, and it has been laid down by the Trinity Masters,—and my mind has always concurred in the propriety of the doctrine,—that if vessels are approaching each other, and there is a probability of a collision, the general rule of navigation is strictly to be adhered to. I am therefore of opinion that neither the alleged haziness of the night, nor the point from which the Undaunted was descried, affords a sufficient justification for the conduct of the Columbine in departing from the admitted rule of navigation upon the present occasion. With respect to the remaining part of the Columbine's defence, that the Undaunted was in fault in not hoisting a light and not starboating her helm,—I must leave the decision of these questions to your nautical judgment and experience, and be guided by your opinion how far these measures were proper and necessary to have been adopted under the circumstances of the case. Taking all these matters into

1848.
10th February.
THE COLUM-
BINE.

1843.
10th February.

THE COLUMBINE.

your consideration, you will have the goodness to inform me whether the Columbine was solely to blame, or whether any blame attaches to the Undaunted.

The Trinity Masters being of opinion that the Columbine was solely to blame, the Court pronounced for the damages with costs.

21st February.

THE LOCHIEL. MILES.

Advances made to the master for the repairs and service of a British ship in the port of Cowes, the owners being resident at Newcastle, cannot be made the subject of a bottomry transaction.

An alleged bond of bottomry given at Rotterdam pronounced against, upon the ground that the advances were made for the repayment of debts incurred by the ship in a former voyage, and also that such advances were not necessary for the immediate exigencies of the ship.

THIS was a question upon the validity of a bottomry bond (*a*) granted by the master, at Rotterdam, in June, 1842. The bond was opposed by

(*a*) Form of the Bottomry Bond in question.

"Whereas the said brig, in a former voyage, with a cargo of coals from Newcastle, bound to Exeter, met with very rough and tempestuous weather, and in consequence of losses and damages sustained thereby was reduced to the necessity of putting into the port of Cowes, where the cargo was discharged and the ship repaired; and whereas I, the said William Miles, having no funds to pay the charge incurred thereby, did borrow the necessary funds for that purpose from James Pow, of Newcastle, merchant, to the amount of one hundred thirty-nine pounds ten shillings eight pence, lawful money of Great Britain, for which amount I, the said William Miles, signed a promissory note, dated at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the seventeenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, payable at Rotterdam on demand; and whereas afterwards the said J. Pow advanced to me, the said William Miles, in behalf of the said ship Lochiel, a further sum of forty pounds nineteen shillings, in order to supply the said ship with new sails and ropes, and to enable her to proceed on a voyage to Rotterdam; and whereas I, the said William Miles, on my arrival at Rotterdam, was not in a position to pay the amount of the above-mentioned promissory note, (which in consequence thereof was

a mortgagee to whom the ship had been assigned, with a power of sale, in the year 1841.

1843.
21st February.
THE LOCHIEL.

On behalf of the bondholder, it was alleged in the act on petition:—That in June, 1842, the brig *Lochiel* being at Rotterdam, and about to proceed on a voyage to Newcastle, the master being without funds, or credit to raise such funds as were requisite to protect the ship from seizure for debts incurred, and to which she was liable by the laws of Holland, and to enable her to proceed to sea on her intended voyage, borrowed of Messrs. D. and Co., merchants, of Rotterdam, the sum of 2940 Netherlands guilders, and for repayment thereof, together with a premium of 8 per cent., executed in favour of the said Messrs. D. and Co. the bottomry bond in question in the cause. That the bond was duly indorsed and assigned to J. P., the promoter of the suit, who has in vain demanded payment thereof since the arrival of the ship in this country.

On behalf of the mortgagee, it was set forth in his answer to the act on petition:—That in February, 1842, the vessel was chartered by J. P. to

protested for nonpayment,) nor also the further amount of forty pounds nineteen shillings advanced to me as aforesaid; and whereas both the aforesaid sums were paid off to the said James Pow for and on account of me, the said William Miles, by Messrs. R. and J. Dobree, of Rotterdam, merchants; and the said Messrs. R. and J. Dobree advanced to me an additional sum of fifty pounds sterling to defray the port charges and other expenses of the aforesaid ship *Lochiel* at Rotterdam, and to enable her to proceed on a voyage thence to Newcastle, where she is now bound.

“Know ye,” &c. (The remainder of the bond contains the usual stipulations and covenants.)

1843.
21st February.
THE LOCHIEL.

take a cargo of coals from Newcastle to Exeter. That while on such voyage she was obliged to put into Cowes for repairs. That J. P., the charterer, having arrived at Cowes, the cargo was sold ; and money was advanced by said J. P. for the completion of the necessary repairs. That the brig returned to Newcastle, and about the 17th May, 1842, the master gave to the said J. P. a promissory note, payable at Rotterdam, for the sum of £130 10s. 8d., being the promissory note mentioned in the bond in question in the suit.

That subsequently thereto the brig, being chartered by J. Reid, of Newcastle, to carry a cargo of coals to Rotterdam, sailed from Newcastle, having on board one D., a brother-in-law of the said J. P., and who introduced the master to Messrs. D. and Co., upon the arrival of the ship at Rotterdam. That after the brig had discharged her cargo, and the broker of J. Reid, the charterer, had paid all port and other dues to which the vessel was liable upon coming to Rotterdam, the master received from the said broker, on or about the 14th of June, the balance of the freight, amounting to about £10, and sailed on the next following day for England. That in order to complete the brig's provision and equipment for her return voyage to Newcastle, and make all the disbursements for the same, the master did not require nor expend a sum amounting to £20 over and above the balance of the freight which he had received.

The answer then, in conclusion, denied the averment in the act on petition, that the advance of the 2940 guilders by the Messrs. D. was ne-

cessary in order to protect the ship from seizure for debts, &c., or that the said sum was justly advanced upon bottomry, if at all advanced to the said master.

A reply was given on behalf of the holder of the bond, alleging that the sum of £139 10s. 8d. mentioned in the act on petition was *bondā fide* advanced by J. P. for the service of the ship, as was also a further advance of £40 19s. subsequently advanced by the said J. P., and the whole of the monies so advanced were necessarily expended in the repairs and service of the vessel. That the brig, upon her arrival at Rotterdam, was liable by the law of Holland in respect of such advances, which the master was incapable of defraying, save by means of a loan upon bottomry. That it was in consideration of the advances so raised by him to protect the ship or vessel from seizure, as also to cover a further advance, to wit, of £50, in liquidation of necessary disbursements of the ship at Rotterdam, then and there *bondā fide* made by Messrs. D. and Co., that the bond in question was duly executed by the master, &c., &c.

These averments in the reply were denied in a rejoinder, and the rejoinder further pleaded:—That on the 16th of August, 1841, the bills of sale to the mortgagee were marked at the Custom House, in order to have the particulars thereof indorsed upon the certificate of registry of the said vessel, so soon as the same could be produced, and that it was not until some time after the return of the said vessel to Newcastle from Rotterdam that J. P. gave up the said certificate to the agent of the said mortgagee, and that until such time he had not been able to obtain possession thereof.

1843.
21st February.
THE LOCHIEL.

1843.
21st February.
THE LOCHIEL.

In support of the bond, *Addams* submitted—
That one feature in the opposition which had been raised against the payment of the bond was deserving of notice, viz., that the objections which had been taken to its validity were not taken by the owners of the vessel, who were entirely lost sight of, but by a mortgagee under an asserted previous deed of assignment. That although the assignment in question purported to have been made in August, 1841, the only evidence of this fact was contained in the affidavit of the mortgagee himself. That no mention of the circumstance was to be found in the deposition of the master; and surely the fact must have been communicated to him either by the mortgagee, or by the owner of the ship, if any such transaction had *bond fide* taken place. That even assuming the assignment to have been actually made as stated, the case set up by the party opposing the bond was defective in this respect, that it did not supply any evidence to show that J. P. or the Messrs. Dobree, the parties more immediately interested under the bond, were aware, when they made advances on the ship's account, that any previous mortgage upon the vessel was in existence. That the course pursued by the asserted mortgagee in lying by till the last moment, and now for the first time setting up the case detailed by him in his answer to the act on petition, was somewhat suspicious, and did not entitle his opposition to a very favourable reception from the Court.

That as regarded the *res gestæ* of the case, and the evidence adduced on the one side and the other, the balance of credibility was decidedly in favour of the case set up by the holder of the bond.

That in respect to the original advances stated to have been made by J. P. in this country, previous to the ship's departure for Rotterdam, it was expressly averred in the act on petition, and supported by affidavit, that the money was *bond fide* advanced, and expended in the service of the ship; and this statement was confirmed and verified by the accounts which had been brought in.

1843.
21st February.
THE LOCHIEL.

Per Curiam.

How did the promissory note to cover these advances become payable at Rotterdam?

Addams. I really do not know. It must be remembered that, in supporting this bond, I do not in point of fact represent J. P., but the Messrs. Dobree, in whose favour the bond was executed by the master at Rotterdam.

The learned counsel further submitted in continuation of his argument:—That the real and true issue in the case was not whether a bond of bottomry could have been legally taken by J. P. for the advances made in this country, but whether the advances asserted to have been made by the Messrs. Dobree were *bond fide* made in consideration of the bond, and for the service of the ship. That the evidence upon this part of the bondholder's case was most explicit and satisfactory. That the Messrs. Dobree positively and distinctly swore in their affidavit that it was so advanced, and their statement derived no small corroboration from the *res gestae* of the case, and their own conduct throughout the whole proceeding. That no attempt had been made upon their part to mystify or conceal any portion of the transaction which occurred between themselves and the master at Rotter-

1843.
21st February.
The Lochiel.

dam. They stated all the circumstances fully and fairly in their affidavit, and the same facts were also detailed in the bond itself. That the evidence on the other side was confined to the testimony of the asserted mortgagee and Miles the master. That in respect to what had been sworn by Mr. Cannon, it was objectionable in two respects, first, that it was principally composed of matter altogether irrelevant and beside the issue in the suit; and secondly, that in the only part of it which directly referred to the case in question, viz. the contents of the last sheet, the explanations which it purported to supply as to the reason why the mortgage was not indorsed upon the ship's certificate of registry, in August, 1841, was deficient and unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it did not explain nor account for the whole period which intervened between the asserted assignment of the ship, and the indorsement of such assignment upon the ship's register. That in regard to the affidavit of the master, the greater portion of it was clearly inadmissible as evidence in the cause, inasmuch as it deposed to matters not set up in the pleadings, and although he swears that he did not require more than £10 or £15 beyond the balance of the freight to enable him to put to sea, a material disparagement to the truth of his statement was to be deduced from his own admission, that in order to obtain the money he was willing to accept of £50; and still more from the fact that he actually did accept that sum. That his evidence was in consequence not entitled to much credit from the Court. The learned counsel then further referred at some length to the items of the accounts, and the affidavits of two Dutch advocates upon the

law of Holland, with respect to the liability of the ship's detention and arrest under the circumstances of the case ; and contended, in conclusion, that the vessel having been clearly liable to arrest and detention by the law of Holland, and the money being *bond fide* advanced by the Messrs. D. to extricate her from her difficulty, and to supply further exigences, the bondholder was entitled to the payment of the bond.

1843.
21st February.
The Lochiel

Haggard, contrà, for the mortgagee—

That the reason why no appearance had been given for the owner in these proceedings was sufficiently explained by the fact, that the beneficial interest in the vessel was exclusively vested in the mortgagee ; and that under the recent statute he had a clear legal right to come into Court, and contest the validity of a bond set up under the circumstances of the case. That although much argument had been advanced on the other side in support of the transactions which had given rise to the bond in question, it was somewhat remarkable that the contents of the bond itself had never been directly adverted to, nor distinctly brought under the notice of the Court. It was also deserving of notice, that the promissory note, which constituted the primary foundation of the negotiations between the Messrs. Dobree and the master, was not brought forward in the cause ; and no explanation was furnished why such promissory note had been made payable at Rotterdam. That as regarded the transactions stated to have occurred prior to the departure of the ship for this country, the whole *res gestæ* of the case sufficiently proved : that the original advances by J. P., at Cowes,

1848.
21st February.
The LOCHMIRE.

even if made, as alleged, for the service of the ship, were not made upon the security of the ship, but upon the personal security of the master. That with respect to the further sum of £40 18s. asserted to have been advanced at Newcastle, such advancement, if made, was made by J. P. without any security at all. That these advances could not have been made the foundation of a bottomry transaction at the time when the promissory note was given in the first instance; and if in lieu of such promissory note a bond to the same amount had been executed by the master at Newcastle, the payment of such a bond could never have been enforced by proceedings in this Court. That with respect to what subsequently took place at Rotterdam, it was equally clear that the circumstances disclosed, both upon the face of the bond, and in the statement set forth by the bondholder himself, were wholly insufficient to sustain the validity of the bond in issue. That the instrument in question was invalid in two most important respects. In the first place, because a great proportion of the pretended advances upon the bond was ostensibly made for purposes not within the scope of a bottomry transaction, viz. the repayment of debts incurred on account of the ship prior to the voyage in which she was engaged at the time those advances were made. Secondly, That the remaining portion of the advances were made without necessity; and if the master's evidence was to be received, were forced upon the master's acceptance.

The learned counsel then referred at some length to the contents of the bond, and the evidence of the master, and also to the affidavits in the

cause ; and in conclusion he submitted—That the attempt to enforce the payment of the bond by the proceedings in the cause was a desperate and concerted attempt between the Messrs. Dobree and J. P. to obtain the repayment of the money originally advanced by J. P., at the expense of the mortgagee, and which could only be justly dealt with by the Court, in the rejection of the bond-holder's claim, and his condemnation in the cost of the proceedings.

1843.
21st February.
The Lochiel.

JUDGMENT—*Dr. Lushington.*

In this case, which comes before the Court under very peculiar circumstances, a considerable difficulty is interposed, from the fact that the plea given in by the mortgagee in the cause is not so full in the statement it sets forth as the affidavits which have been sworn in support of it. I allude more particularly to the affidavit of Miles, the master; and in delivering my opinion, I shall endeavour to avoid relying upon any of the statements contained in the affidavit of this witness, which do not fairly fall within the scope of the pleading itself. The bond in question bears date the 7th of June, 1842, and it commences by reciting— That the vessel, belonging to the port of Newcastle, had set out on a voyage with a cargo of coals, bound from that port to the port of Exeter. That having incurred damages from the tempestuous state of the weather, she was compelled to put into the port of Cowes, where the cargo was unladen and the ship was repaired. That Miles, the master, having no funds to defray the cost of such repairs, borrowed money from Mr. P. for the service of the ship, to the amount of £139 10s. 8d.,

1843.
21st February.
THE LOCHIEL.

for which he signed a promissory note, dated at Newcastle-on-Tyne, 17th May, 1842, and payable on demand at Rotterdam; and the said J. P. also advanced a further sum of £40, to enable the vessel to proceed on her voyage to Rotterdam. That upon her arrival at Rotterdam, the master was not in a condition to pay the amount of the promissory note or the further advance of £40, and the note was in consequence protested for non-payment. The bond then further recites—That both these sums were paid to J. P. on the master's account, by the Messrs. Dobree, merchants, of Rotterdam; and the said Messrs. D. also advanced an additional sum of £50, to enable the ship to return from Rotterdam to Newcastle; and it concludes with the formal hypothecation of the vessel for the repayment of the several advances, amounting together to between £200 and £300 sterling, with a premium of 8 per cent. Such being the general character of the bond in question, and such the outline of the circumstances under which it was executed by the master, the first consideration which presents itself is this, viz., how far this Court can enforce, either wholly or in part, a bond of this description. In respect to the advances which are alleged to have been made for the service of the ship by Mr. P. at the port of Cowes, it is perfectly clear, assuming the owners of the vessel to be resident at Newcastle, that no bond of bottomry could have been legally given by the master for any such advances in any port of this country, and no attempt has been made to take any such bond in the present instance. It is contended, however, that the promissory note for the £139 10s. was made payable and became due at

Rotterdam, and not having been discharged by the master on the ship's arrival in that city, the parties to whom the promissory note was assigned might, by the law of Holland, have arrested the vessel, and might have detained or sold her for the purpose of enforcing the repayment of the £139 10s. 8d. Admitting the law of Holland to be as stated, for the purpose of this discussion, would this circumstance entitle the Messrs. Dobree to convert the promissory note into a bottomry security, by making the payment of it the subject of a bottomry transaction? I apprehend not. I know of no case which has decided that a vessel can be validly hypothecated for debts incurred prior to the immediate voyage in which she is engaged at the time when the bond of bottomry is given. Lord Stowell, when he decided the case of the *Augusta*, entertained great doubt, in the first instance, whether a vessel could be legally hypothecated merely to avoid her detention; but upon subsequent consideration he was inclined to hold that it might be an additional reason for hypothecation, and that opinion I also adopted in a case which came under my own consideration (*a*). But neither Lord Stowell, to the best of my belief, nor I myself have ever laid it down that a bond of bottomry could be validly given for the payment of debts which had been incurred by a vessel on a former voyage, and for a different purpose. What would be the consequences of the doctrine that a bond could so be given? If the position could be supported, the effect would be that any debt contracted by the master in England for the service of

1843.
21st February.
The Lochiel.

(*a*) *The Vibiliia*, R. Jun., Vol. I.

1843.
21st February.
The LOCHIEL.

his ship, upon the personal security of the owners, might, by being made payable abroad, as in the present instance, be converted into a case of hypothecation. It is unnecessary for me to pursue this point any further in the present instance, because I am satisfied in my own mind that, under the circumstances disclosed upon the face of the bond itself, it would be impossible to hold those portions of the bond to be valid which regard the £139 10s. 8d. and the additional £40 alleged to have been advanced by J. P. before the ship sailed from this country. With respect to the sum of £50, which is stated to have been advanced at Rotterdam for the purpose of enabling the ship to return to this country, it is possible that the bond might be valid for this sum, although invalid for the others. It is therefore incumbent upon me now to examine more particularly the circumstances of the case as they are detailed in the evidence before me. Who are the parties before the Court? The first party in the suit is Mr. P., the person to whom the promissory note was originally given, and by whom the advances at Cowes were made. As assignee of the Messrs. Dobree, who have become bankrupts, the bond in question has been assigned to him, and he is the party now proceeding to enforce the payment of it as plaintiff in the present suit. Who is the other party? The person by whom the bond is opposed is a Mr. Cannon, who, according to his own statement, is a mortgagee of the ship by means of the transfer of divers mortgages made to him in the month of August, 1841. It may here be noticed, that in the act on petition on behalf of the bondholder an averment is introduced to this effect, that whatever

be the title of the mortgagee, no indorsement of the alleged mortgages was inserted upon the ship's register until after the commencement of this suit, in the month of August, 1842. Now it appears that although the actual indorsement was made upon the 25th of July, 1842, Mr. Cannon distinctly avers in plea, and swears in his affidavit, that he did, on the 16th of August, 1841, exhibit the several indentures or bills of sale at the Custom House, for the purpose of their being entered on the certificate of the registry of the ship as soon as such certificate could be produced, but that it was not until some time after the return of the vessel from Rotterdam that the possession of such certificate could be obtained from Mr. P. This explanation comes in by way of reply to Mr. P.'s statement, and as it is not contradicted by him, I must suppose the facts to be as stated, that the original title of the mortgagee in point of fact commenced in August, 1841, although it was not until 1842 that it was rendered more perfect and more regular in point of form.

Addams, in explanation—

The application to Mr. P. for the certificate was not made until after the vessel had gone to Rotterdam, and at such time the certificate was in the possession of the master.

The Court, in continuation—

How am I to know that? I cannot receive an *ex parte* explanation without regard to the evidence in the cause. The evidence of the mortgagee states that an application was made for the ship's register, for the purpose of having these indentures indorsed upon it, and no counter evidence

1843.
21st February.
The LOCHIEL.

1843.
21st February.
THE LOCHIEL.

is before the Court to contradict this statement. If Mr. P. had intended to put in issue the period of time when such application was made, or the period of time at which it came to his knowledge, that any such mortgage deeds were in existence, he should have specifically pleaded the matter upon which he intended to rely. As regards the question in issue, it does not, I confess, appear to me of any importance to ascertain the precise period of time at which Mr. P. was first made acquainted that any such mortgage deeds were in existence. If he did not know of the transfer of the mortgages to Mr. Cannon, he knew that there were mortgages upon the vessel, and that the interest of the owner in the ship was mortgaged to the fullest extent; it is impossible, therefore, to contend for a single moment that Mr. P. was not sufficiently aware that this vessel was subject to mortgages. What takes place under these circumstances? It appears that, early in the month of February, 1842, the vessel is chartered by Mr. P. for the purpose of carrying a cargo of coals from Newcastle to Exeter. She encounters tempestuous weather on the voyage, and meeting with damage, is carried into the port of Cowes, where it is found necessary that she should be repaired. The repairs are effected, and Mr. P., it is stated, advanced the necessary funds for the expenses of such repairs. Assuming this statement to be correct, I doubt whether, under the circumstances of the case, the owners of the vessel could be personally bound by the master for the monies so advanced, an immediate communication being open to the master with his employers at Newcastle. But be that as it may, it is I think perfectly clear that the master could only bind him-

1843.
21st February.
THE LOCHIEL.

self personally or the owners of the ship, and the advances in question would not, I apprehend, by the laws of England, give Mr. P. any lien upon the ship itself. What follows? The ship having been repaired at Cowes, returns to Newcastle, and upon the 17th of May a promissory note is given to Mr. P., dated at Newcastle, and made payable by the master at Rotterdam. I asked, and I have received no satisfactory answer to my question, upon what grounds this promissory note was made payable at Rotterdam? I confess that in my view of it, this circumstance is full of suspicion; and this suspicion is in no degree cleared away when I look further to the *res gestæ* of the transaction in question. Mr. P., the original charterer, sends his own brother-in-law in this vessel to Rotterdam, and according to his own statement, advances a further sum of £40 to fit her out for the voyage. Upon her arrival at Rotterdam, a demand is made upon the master for the immediate repayment of the promissory note, and of the £40 19s. The Messrs. Dobree then come forward and advance the money to the master, and a bond is given. This bond is assigned to Mr. P., the original creditor, and upon this bond Mr. P. is now suing in this Court as the promoter of the present proceedings. Looking to these circumstances, I have no doubt in my own mind that the whole scheme was deliberately planned by Mr. P. to obtain repayment of the money he had previously advanced, to the prejudice of the mortgagee, by making the ship liable for that debt to which by the law of England it would not be liable; and here I may observe, that the mortgagee of this vessel has a perfect right to contest in this Court the validity of such a bond. The law of this coun-

1843.
21st February.
The Lochiel.

try not only allows this, but has given the greatest assistance to mortgagees, in order to render their mortgages valid securities ; and it would be impossible for the commercial business of England to go on unless these means were allowed of obtaining money upon the security of vessels. I have no hesitation then, whether I look to the law, or to the transaction itself as tainted with fraud, to pronounce against the validity of this bond, so far as it relates to the advances which are stated to have been made by Mr. P. himself ; and I may further observe that, looking to the affidavits in the cause, every one of them tends strongly to confirm me in my opinion. First, it is sworn that the money was advanced for the purposes of the ship ; then that it was lent to protect the ship from being arrested at the suit of Mr. P. at Rotterdam ; and that Miles, the master, was compelled to borrow, and did borrow, the further sum of £50, in order to enable him to return from Rotterdam to Newcastle. Whereas the palpable truth is, that Mr. P., who was the cause of the vessel going to Rotterdam, was also the cause of the threat of arrest ; and he put the promissory note into the hands of the Messrs. Dobree, and authorized them to proceed upon it. I hope the vigilance of this Court is not to be surprised by evidence of this description. The Messrs. Dobree, I regret to say, appear to have lent themselves to the transaction in a way not very creditable to them. They swear that they actually and *bond fide* advanced the money for the purpose of paying off the debt due to Mr. P. What do they mean by actually advancing ? Why, in plain English, the true course of the transaction was this—That having received from Mr. P. an intimation

of the situation in which he was placed, they, by his desire and direction, credited him for the sums which he had originally advanced, upon the understanding that he should obtain the repayment upon the ship itself on her return to England. This part of the case is tainted with fraud from beginning to end.

I now come to the remaining consideration, namely, the £50 alleged to have been advanced by the Messrs. Dobree at Rotterdam, to enable the vessel to return to England. Looking to the form in which this bond has been drawn up, and to the particular circumstances under which it was given, I doubt very much whether, under any state of circumstances, I should be justified in pronouncing for the validity of any portion of a bond of this description. Under the particular circumstances of the present case, I am clearly of opinion that I ought not, and for this reason, viz., that there is no sufficient evidence before the Court to establish the necessity for the alleged advancement in question ; there is no evidence to show that the money, if requisite for the purposes of the vessel, might not have been obtained from another house at Rotterdam ; there is no evidence that any such attempt was made, in short, there is no evidence whatever to clear up the suspicious part of the transaction. It is my conviction that the £50 was pressed upon the master in order to give a colourable appearance to the bond. I am therefore perfectly satisfied that the bond cannot be sustained, and I pronounce against it, with costs.

1843.
21st February.
The Lochiel.

1843.
21st February.

Suit for wages. Stipulation in the mariner's contract, that a share in the proceeds of a whaling voyage should form a part of the seaman's wages.

Defence.—That the mariner's claim was founded upon a special contract, over which the Court had no jurisdiction,—sustained.

Scumble.—If the special agreement pervades the whole of the contract, the mariner is not entitled to sue in the Admiralty Court. If, however, a part of the voyage is upon an ordinary contract, and the special agreement is only contingent, the Court will pronounce for that part of the wages which is claimed under the ordinary contract.

THE RIBY GROVE. DEAN.

THIS was a question upon the admission of a summary petition in a suit for subtraction of wages.

The summary petition, consisting of four articles, in substance pleaded :—

First.—That on or about the 14th of March, 1838, the said ship, Riby Grove, being at the port of Hull, and destined to the Greenland whale fishery on a whaling voyage, J. D., the master, shipped and hired the plaintiff to serve as cook on board said ship during her then intended voyage, and agreed to pay him wages at the rate of two pounds fifteen shillings per month, and one shilling and nine-pence for every ton of oil which should be obtained in the said voyage. That said J. D. accordingly entered on board, and into the service of the said ship, and on the 6th of March signed the usual ship's articles or mariners' contract. That on the 8th of March, the said ship sailed from Hull, and proceeded on her voyage to the whale fishery, where she succeeded in taking five thousand three hundred and thirty seals, and seven whales, which produced ninety tons of blubber, and two tons of whalebone ; but that on the 9th of June, 1838, the ship got jammed amongst the ice, and although every endeavour was made by the master and crew to extricate her, she became a total wreck, and went down.

That by the arduous and unwearied exertions of the master and part of the crew of the said ship, assisted by the crews of two foreign whalers, the Altona of Elmshorn, and the Hanover of Bremen,

which were on the spot, seventy tons of blubber were rescued from the sinking vessel, thirty tons of which were stowed on board the Altona, and the remaining forty on board the Hanover; in addition to which, various stores, consisting of whaling boats, whaling lines, provisions, and other articles to the value at the least of £100, were taken out of the said ship, and safely deposited on board the said vessels, and deposited in the custody of the owners of the said two vessels to abide the claims of all parties thereto.

The first article then alleged, *inter alia*—That towards the end of July 1838, the plaintiff arrived in England, and immediately applied to W. T., as the managing owner of the said ship, for the payment of the wages schedule, but that he then refused to make such payment, alleging as his reason for such refusal, that the question as to the title in the property saved as aforesaid was then pending and undetermined between the owners of the Riby Grove and the owners of the said vessels, Altona and Hanover. That at the commencement of the month of August last, the said plaintiff and others of the crew of the Riby Grove, having ascertained that the said W. T., on behalf of himself and the co-owners of the said ship, had received from the owners of the two vessels a very considerable part of the said oil, again applied for the payment of the wages—to wit, the 9th of August—but said W. T. on such occasion again refused, at the same time admitting, in the presence and hearing of the plaintiff and of others of the crew, that he and his co-owners had received the value of fifteen tons of oil, amounting, at the lowest value, to the sum of £450. That upon subsequent appli-

1843.
21st February.
The Riby
Grove.

1843.
31st February.
The Riby
Grove.

cation to the owners of the said two vessels, it was ascertained that the oil taken on board the Altona had produced, at public sale, 14630 marks, Hamburg currency, viz., £884 sterling; and that one half, viz., the sum of £442, had been delivered over to the owners of the Riby Grove. It was also ascertained that the owners of the Hanover had paid to the owners of the said ship the further sum of £454. That upon such information the plaintiff, in order to compel the payment of his wages, summoned the said W. T. before the magistrates at Hull, but the said magistrates declined to adjudicate upon the question, &c.

Second.—That the said oil, and also the other articles saved from the Riby Grove, were the property of the owners of the said ship, and that it has ever been usual and customary for the persons serving on board vessels engaged in the Greenland whale fishery to be allowed a certain sum, varying according to their different capacities, for every ton of oil obtained by their exertions, and that such allowance is expressly set forth in the mariners' contracts, and is universally understood by the masters and crews of such vessels to form part of their wages.

The third and fourth articles are the usual concluding articles.

On behalf of the owners, *Addams* submitted—

That the summary petition was inadmissible upon two grounds. In the first place, that the original lien of the mariner was upon the ship, and this lien had been destroyed in the present instance by the misfortune which had befallen the owners in the total loss of their vessel. That although it

was indeed suggested in the petition that some portion of the ship's stores and apparatus had been saved, it was not attempted to aver in plea that any part of them had come into the possession of the owners. The Court, therefore, could take no notice of this circumstance in deciding the admissibility of the plea which was now brought in. That with respect to the seventy tons of blubber, which formed part of the cargo, and which was alleged to have been saved, and subsequently sold for the benefit of the owners, it was clear that as against this portion of the property, *quâ cargo*, the mariner's lien for the wages did not extend, and that he had no such claim upon it as would give him the right to sue against the owners in this Court. That if he had any claim at all against this part of the owners' property, it must be founded upon the special agreement in the ship's articles, that he should receive 1*s.* 9*d.* for every ton of oil produced. That under the authority of the case *Jesse v. Roy*, it might indeed be questioned whether he could recover at all upon such agreement, the oil never having arrived in this country; but be this as it may, the cognizance of the claim did not belong to this Court, but to other tribunals; and this Court had no authority to entertain the question. That there was also a second ground of objection equally, if not still more, fatal to the admission of the summary petition, viz., that upon the face of the petition itself it was evident that the mariners' contract with the owners in this case, was in the nature of a special contract, upon which the Court had no jurisdiction to adjudicate. That this principle had been most distinctly laid down by Lord Tenterden in his work on Shipping, and had been

1848.
21st February.

The Ruby
Grove.

1843.
21st February.
THE RIBY
GROVE.

acted upon in the practice of the Court in the case of the Sydney Cove, decided by Lord Stowell. That the case of the Sydney Cove was strongly analogous to the circumstances of the present case, and the decision of Lord Stowell in that case was binding and conclusive upon the present question. That upon both these grounds the owners were entitled to be dismissed from this suit, and that it was a great hardship upon them that they should have been called upon to appear at all after the great lapse of time that had intervened since the loss of their vessel.

For the mariner, *Phillimore, contrà*—

That in point of hardship the mariner had most reason to complain in having been thus long deprived of his wages, whilst the owners were in possession of so ample a fund for their discharge. That the decision of Lord Stowell, in the case of the Sydney Cove, was grounded upon the express consideration, that the part of the mariners' contract which he rejected was in the nature of a partnership transaction between the mariners and the owners, and that the Court of Admiralty had no power to investigate the question. The case, therefore, of the Sydney Cove did not apply in the present case, in which the oil money constituted a part and parcel of the mariners' wages. That even assuming, for the sake of the argument, that the mariner had no direct legal lien for wages upon the proceeds of the blubber which had been saved, still it was clear in this case that the property had been saved partly by the exertions of the crew of the Riby Grove; and they might therefore be fairly considered to have a lien upon it in the

nature of salvage. That this position was borne out by the dictum of Lord Stowell in the case of the *Neptune* (*a*); that circumstances might present themselves that might induce the Court to open itself to the claim of the mariners, of a *persona standi in judicio*, as salvors. The learned counsel referred in detail to the judgment of Lord Stowell, and in conclusion contended that the circumstances of the case fell within the dictum thrown out by Lord Stowell, and that the summary petition ought to be admitted.

1843.
21st February.
THE RAY
Grove.

Per Curiam.

The dictum of Lord Stowell does not apply. The Court clearly could not give salvage in a suit for wages. The question which has been raised is an important question with regard to the jurisdiction of the Court. I must take time to consider my decision.

Upon the 2nd of March the Court delivered its opinion to the following effect.

JUDGMENT—*Dr. Lushington.*

2nd March.

The question to be decided in this case arises upon the admissibility of a summary petition which has been offered to the Court under the following circumstances. The vessel, it appears, being bound on a whaling voyage to the Greenland fishery, the mariner, the plaintiff in the cause, was hired by the master to serve on board in the capacity of cook, at the rate of £2 15s. per month, and 1s. 9d. upon each tun of oil which might be obtained. Having signed the ship's articles, he proceeded

(a) *Haggard's Admiralty Reports*, vol. i. p. 227.

1848.
2nd March.
The Ruy
Grove.

with the vessel to the fishery, where, having been occupied in catching seals and whales for a considerable time with success, the ship was eventually lost. It is alleged in the summary petition, that at the time of the loss of the vessel a certain portion of the ship's stores and of her apparatus was saved ; but, as was properly observed by the counsel in the argument, it is not averred that the owners of the vessel ever received any part of the property which is alleged to have been so saved. Under certain circumstances, undoubtedly, in a question of this kind, the saving of a portion of the vessel's stores and her apparatus, might form an important ingredient in the judgment of the Court ; but this consideration cannot apply in the present instance, because the averment to which I have adverted is too loosely pleaded to influence my decision. It is moreover alleged that a part of the cargo was also saved and carried into Holland, and that a certain sum of money has been paid over to the owners on account of the cargo so saved, a deduction for salvage being first made. Under these circumstances, I am now asked to admit this summary petition, and the decision of the question, it appears to me, involves two considerations. The first is, whether the wages are legally due or not ? and secondly, whether this Court has any jurisdiction to decide upon them ? With regard to the first point, I am not aware (and I believe the point never has been decided in this Court) of any case whatever in which it has been decided, that where a part of the cargo has been saved, and the ship has been wholly lost, the mariner can prosecute a suit for wages in this Court against the cargo itself. The question was,

I find, indirectly noticed in the case of the Lady Durham, reported in the third volume of Haggard's Reports, p. 196, but no opinion was delivered upon the point by the learned judge who decided that case. The words of Sir John Nicholl in that case are these—"Whether if any cargo were saved it could be held to represent the freight, I give no opinion; it might raise a very different question from the present." In the case to which I have adverted, the ship sailed from Liverpool on a trading voyage to Africa, and upon her homeward voyage was totally lost, together with her cargo; the ship and the cargo being the property of the same owners. The case, therefore, of the Lady Durham is unquestionably distinguished from the present case in two most important particulars. First, that in the case of the Lady Durham, the whole of the cargo was entirely lost; and secondly, the cargo was the sole and entire property of the owners of the ship. The learned judge, Sir J. Nicholl, having given to the question, as it appears, very great consideration, rejected the summary petition of the mariner upon the general principle of law, that a mariner has no lien for his wages upon the cargo, his lien is upon the ship and freight. I entirely concur with Sir J. Nicholl in the doctrine, that against the cargo, *qua cargo*, the seaman can have no claim; at the same time, I think, that as against the cargo, where freight has been earned although not paid, the case might perhaps be subject to a different consideration. I do not, however, feel myself called upon to express any immediate opinion upon this point in the present instance, and I should be extremely reluctant to conclude myself upon a point

1843.
2nd March.
THE RIBBLE
GLOUCESTER

1843.
2nd March.
THE RIBBLE
GROVE.

which may possibly occur hereafter, namely, when the owner of the ship is the owner of the cargo, and the ship is lost, but the cargo is saved.

Technically speaking, in such a case no freight would be payable, because there can be no freight payable from a man to himself. Yet the cargo would include in itself the value of the freight. Upon this point however, I again repeat, I do not wish to be considered as pronouncing any decision in the present instance. Further, I do not at the present moment feel myself called upon to determine whether the wages are due to the mariner or not. My decision will rest upon the second consideration, to which I will now apply myself, namely, whether this Court has any jurisdiction to enforce the payment of the mariner's demand.

Now the question upon this part of the case, as it appears to me, is—What are the limits which have been prescribed to the jurisdiction of this Court? In the investigation of this question, I am not about to enter into a detail of all the preceding authorities, either of this Court or the courts of common law. It will be sufficient if from the more recent authorities I am enabled to select a sufficient guidance for my judgment, without entering into cases which have been decided in former days, when perhaps they would not have received the same decision from any Court as they would at the present time. The whole of the law upon this subject is laid in the last edition of Lord Tenterden's book of Shipping, pp. 590. 594. The result of it is shortly this:—"That when the contract is in the usual terms, although it be made in writing and under seal, the Court of Admiralty is entitled to exercise jurisdiction. When, however, the con-

tract is special, or to use the words of the high authority from which I quote them, ‘if the contract be made upon terms and conditions differing from the usual and general rules of law, service alone cannot entitle a seaman to his wages; his right to them must depend upon the performance of the stipulated terms.’” The doctrine thus laid down by Lord Tenterden has reference to a fiction of ancient law, which fiction was this,—that the jurisdiction of this Court was founded upon the supposition that the contract was made at sea, and the service was there performed, and in our summary petitions it is so alleged that the contract was made at sea. The general result, however, of the passage quoted, and of all the authorities is, as I have already observed,—that if the contract be a special contract, this Court is excluded from exercising any jurisdiction over it.

Now, unfortunately, what is and what is not a special contract, no one has attempted to define. The principle has been laid down in general terms, that a special contract shall oust the jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty, but none of the decided cases have defined specifically what is a special contract; and upon this point, consequently, I am left entirely to the exercise of my own judgment. In considering the subject, I have referred to the case of the Sydney Cove, the only case, that I am aware of, in which a similar question has directly been raised and determined by this Court. In that case, reported in the 2nd Dodson, p. 11, a summary petition was given in, in the first instance, simply setting forth that the mariner was hired to serve as chief mate on board a vessel bound on a voyage to New South Wales, and afterwards on a

1843.
2nd March.
THE RIBY
GROVE.

1843.
2nd March.
THE RIBBLE
GLOUCESTER.

whaling and sealing voyage, and back to the port of London ; and that he was to receive wages at the rate of £8 per month. This was the whole of the case, as set forth in the summary petition ; and no objection was taken to the admission of the summary petition in the first instance, and it was admitted as a matter of course. An additional article was subsequently brought in, setting forth the particulars of the whaling and sealing voyage in which the vessel had been engaged, and alleging that the cargo sold for the net sum of £6442 10s., and that the mariner shipped and hired himself as chief mate, at and after the rate of a twenty-fourth part or share of the net produce of the oil and skins produced thereon. The admission of this additional article was opposed, on the ground that the Court had no authority to entertain the cause, and that it could not adjudicate upon a question which was in the nature of a partnership transaction. Lord Stowell directed the case to stand over, that search might be made for precedents, and no precedent being found, he subsequently rejected the admission of the additional article. When the case came again before the Court, upon the evidence adduced in support of the summary petition, the objection was again taken, that the proceeding was not a proceeding for ordinary wages, over which the Court of Admiralty had jurisdiction, but for a share in the profits of a whaling voyage, which was not recoverable in a court of this description. Lord Stowell decided in favour of the mariner, but upon this special ground, viz., that there was a considerable degree of obscurity arising from the manner in which the mariners' contract was drawn up ; but he thought the fair construction

was, that the mariner was, at all events, entitled to monthly wages during the outward voyage, and that the whaling and sealing voyage was eventual only, being altogether dependent on the inclination of Mr. Underwood, on the arrival of the ship at New South Wales. I have myself examined the ship's articles in the case of the Sydney Cove, and I find that there is a special clause contained in them to the following effect. After adopting the common printed form for wages then in use, they go on to say: "And it is further agreed, that after the delivery of the cargo at Port Jackson, the ship is then to proceed in whaling or sealing, or both, or to take in freight for England, at the option of Mr. Underwood, the owner's agent, as he may think most beneficial for the owner, himself, and the ship's company; and in case the said ship should go a whaling or sealing, or both, then the officers and seamen are to be on certain shares of the net proceeds of whatever the ship may procure. And if the ship shall be freighted from Port Jackson to London, then the officers and seamen shall be entitled to the wages given at the port of London at the time of their signing these articles; that the wages due on delivery of the cargo shall be paid them, deducting slops and advances." Now, it is quite clear, that Lord Stowell decided this case upon the principle that the voyage outwards was a voyage on the ordinary mariners' contract. The demand set up in the original act on petition was simply for ordinary wages; and Lord Stowell was perfectly right in taking the distinction which he did take, and in giving the mariner his wages for the outward voyage alone, thereby taking cognizance only of that part of the contract which was in

1848.
2nd March.
THE RIBY
GROVE.

1848.
2nd March.

The R. R.
G. A. O. V.

the ordinary and common form, and rejecting the further demand for a share in the skins and oil money, upon the principle that he did not possess any jurisdiction to enter into the question.

If the two claims had been so mixed up together as to have rendered them incapable of clear separation, Lord Stowell, I apprehend, would have considered himself bound to have rejected the whole of the demand of the mariner; but, finding, as he states in his judgment, that the whaling and sealing voyage was eventual only, and dependent upon the inclination of Mr. Underwood, he had, I conceive, a perfect right to pronounce the decision which he gave. I will now advert to the contract in this particular case, for the purpose of considering whether it brings it within any of the principles adverted to by Lord Tenterden in his book on Shipping, or by Lord Stowell in his judgment in the case of the Sydney Cove.

The learned judge here adverted to the terms of the mariners' contract, as set forth in the act on petition, and proceeded to observe:—What, then, is the true nature and character of this contract? I must say, that, in my opinion, it is, to all intents and purposes, a special contract. Supposing I was to pronounce for the wages as claimed, and to compel the owners to bring in the £800, which it is alleged they have received, in what way am I to apportion the shares of the seamen? I must enter into a difficult investigation, and decide upon hand-money in advance, and what is termed striking or fish-money, and the shares which the mariners are to take for oil-money per imperial ton.

What must I do besides? Why, when the parties become partners under these circumstances, I

should further have to decide between the interests of the mariners and the owners; for could I possibly determine that the persons on board this ship are to take all that has been saved, in total exclusion of the owners! Are they not partners in one and the same adventure?

Would not the equitable course of proceeding be that all the parties should come in to share, and receive a division of the property which has been saved, in proportion to the amount to which they may be respectively entitled? This Court is utterly incompetent to enter into any such apportionment. I therefore feel bound to reject this summary petition, and I do so upon three grounds.

First, because the contract is a special contract, such as is described by Lord Tenterden as ousting the jurisdiction of this Court.

Secondly, because I conceive that I am confirmed by the authority of Lord Stowell in so doing.

And lastly, because the contract being in the nature of a partnership, I should have, in entertaining the question, to encounter such difficulties as would render it impossible for the Court to arrive at a just and equitable result.

THE ALEXANDER WISE. COULSON.

2nd March.

THIS was a cause of damage by collision, promoted by the owners of the brig Hylton against this vessel, &c. The Court was assisted by Trinity Masters, and the circumstances of the case are fully noticed in the Judge's observations to the Trinity Masters.

VOL. II.

F

Case of collision.
Defence of a
vessel upon the
larboard tack,
close-hauled,
not giving way
to a vessel upon
the starboard
tack and close-
hauled—over-
ruled.

1843.
2nd March.

THE ALEX-
ANDER WISE.

For the owners of the Hylton, *Queen's Advocate* and *Robinson*.

For the Alexander Wise, *Addams* and *Deane*.

Per Curiam.

Gentlemen—This is a cause of damage by collision, and the issues which you will have to try are the following:—Whether the defendant is solely to blame—whether the plaintiff is solely to blame—whether both the parties are to blame; and lastly, whether the collision arose from pure and inevitable accident. These are the points to which your attention must be directed; and in deciding these points you may altogether dismiss from your consideration some of the topics which have been urged in the course of the argument which has been addressed to the Court. For instance, you have nothing to do with the amount of the damages in question; that must be referred to the registrar and merchants. If it should happen in any case that it was necessary, for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of the collision, to entertain that question, then it would be a fit and proper point for your consideration; but where, as in the present instance, it has in reality no bearing upon the issues in the case, it is useless to trouble you upon it. Another point which has been pressed in the argument is the amount of the bail which has been demanded: but this again is a matter for the exclusive consideration of the Court: and if it should be found in any cases of this kind that improper bail has been required, it would be the duty of the Court to adopt such measures as it thought fit to prevent any thing like an attempt at

extortion. I will now briefly bring to your attention the leading facts of the case, many of which are admitted on both sides, and are consequently beyond the possibility of dispute. The state of the wind is not disputed, neither does any question arise with respect to the courses of the two vessels at the time of the collision. The Hylton, it appears, was close-hauled on the starboard tack, her course lying s.e. $\frac{1}{2}$ s., whilst the Alexander Wise was steering w. on the larboard tack, and also close-hauled.

1843.
2nd March.

THE ALEX-
ANDER WISE.

Such being the courses of the vessels, what, according to their own statement, were the measures adopted by the crew of the Alexander Wise? They state that they put down the helm in the first instance, and then, in consequence of the hailing from the Hylton, they afterwards put it up. The evidence of the witnesses is in these words :—"That she was sailing at the rate of about three knots an hour; that the master had gone down to consult the chart, but previously to doing so he had looked out, being anxious on account of the state of the weather, but could not discover a vessel near; that he had not been below more than a minute when he heard Chase, one of the men looking out on the forecastle, call out that there was a sail ahead; that Howatt, the mate, knowing that the ship must be close aboard of them, instantly ordered J. N., the man at the wheel, to put the helm down, intending thereby to bring the brig's head to the wind, and lessen the effect of any collision that might take place; that he had hardly got the word out of his mouth, and J. N. had only just put the helm down, when he heard some one on board the vessel ahead hail the

1843.
2nd March.

THE ALEX-
ANDER WISE.

Alexander Wise to put her helm up, and he immediately gave the order accordingly, but the collision took place before the brig had time to alter her course, in consequence of the helm having been put down." What, then, is the result of this statement? It is this:—that by their own admission the persons on board the Alexander Wise departed, in the first instance, from the acknowledged rule of navigation, inasmuch as the Hylton being upon the starboard tack, and the Alexander Wise upon the larboard, it was the duty of the former to keep her course, and the latter to give way. They do not deny the rule, but they allege in substance, that from the extreme haziness of the weather, and the close proximity of the two vessels when first seen by each other, it was a proper measure on their part to put down the helm, and that if the Hylton had pursued the same course, the collision might have been avoided. I must here observe, gentlemen, that with respect to the distance at which the vessels were first descried by each other, and also in regard to the still more important point, the darkness of the night, the respective statements are controverted. On the part of the Hylton, it is stated that the weather, at the time of the collision, was thick with fog and showers, the wind s.s.w., with the moon up. On behalf of the Alexander Wise, the statement is that the weather was extremely thick and foggy, but nothing is said about the moon. Again: it is stated by the Hylton, in the act on petition, that an interval of about three minutes elapsed between the discovery of the Alexander Wise and the collision; and that during such interval the Alexander Wise was repeatedly hailed to put her helm

up, but that no attention was paid to such hailing until the Alexander Wise was close upon the Hylton, and a collision was inevitable. These points, gentlemen, will require your special and particular attention, because the main argument on behalf of the Alexander Wise is, that the collision arose from inevitable accident on account of the weather, and that blame is imputable to neither party. If you are of opinion that there was sufficient time and opportunity for the Alexander Wise to have put her helm up, and thereby to have bore away, you will in such case pronounce her to blame. If, on the contrary, you shall be of opinion that, from the circumstances set forth by the Alexander Wise, the accident was inevitable, and she took the proper course in first putting her helm down, and afterwards putting it up, the owners of that vessel will be entitled to their dismissal.

The Trinity Masters were of opinion that it was the duty of the Alexander Wise to put her helm up in the first instance, and that that vessel was solely to blame.

Damage pronounced for, with costs.

1843.
2nd March.

THE ALEX-
ANDER WISE.

THE MEDORA.

10th March.

IN this case the Medora, whilst on her voyage from Galatz to Hull, struck upon the Hasborough sand upon the 27th of October last, the wind at the time blowing in gales from the w.s.w. A weft for assistance was first hoisted, and afterwards the master hoisted the union ensign downwards. This, it was alleged on the part of the owners, was merely a signal for assistance in pump-

1843.
10th March.
THE MEDORA.

ing, in case of need, or for provisions. A quarantine flag, which was flying when the vessel first struck, had been taken down; and it was admitted that this had been done that the persons coming to her assistance might not perceive the inconvenience to which they might be exposed in going on board the Medora.

The William and Mary fishing lugger, of forty-four tons, and manned with a crew of ten hands, went off to her assistance, and, having been occupied two days in the service, eventually succeeded in getting her off the sands, and carrying her into Yarmouth.

The value of the ship, cargo, and freight was £3637, and the action was entered by the salvors in the sum of £800.

The Court awarded £400.

15th March.

THE WATT.

Moiety of the ship and cargo awarded in a case of derelict. Deductions from the net value allowed to the owners for necessary expenses in bringing the ship into port, and an apportionment directed by the Court.

Sembler: A person merely hiring labourers to assist in the unloading of a stranded vessel, although entitled to some remuneration

IN this case, which was a case of derelict, a question was raised respecting the amount of deductions to be allowed, on account of the owners, from the net value of the ship and cargo. The circumstances of the case, and the nature of the deductions, are fully stated in the judgment of the Court.

JUDGMENT—*Dr. Lushington.*

The principal claimants in this case are Mr. R. Coaker and six other seamen, who boarded the vessel on or about the 18th of September last, when she was abandoned by her own crew, and had four or five feet of water in her hold. By great

gallantry and perseverance, the salvors succeeded in finally bringing her to this country, although, in consequence of the state of the wind and weather, they were not fortunate enough to bring her into port, but were compelled to run her ashore at Eastbourne. At Eastbourne she was taken in charge by a Mr. Wingfield, of that place, who hired a number of men to unload the vessel, and a steamer having been subsequently engaged, by her aid she was eventually taken in safety to Portsmouth.

Looking to the nature and extent of the salvors' services, which lasted from five to six weeks in duration, it cannot be doubted that, but for their exertions and assistance, the property must have been utterly lost to the owners; and the case therefore being, strictly speaking, a case of derelict, the Court is, I think, bound to give the salvors a moiety of the property saved, subject to deductions. The real question then is, what these deductions ought to be. Now I will endeavour to state, as clearly as I can, what my decree will be with respect to the expenses which are claimed to be deducted. In the first instance, I am of opinion that the expense of bringing the vessel from Eastbourne to Portsmouth is a fair deduction to be allowed from the net value of the ship and cargo, because, as it has been truly observed, the salvage could not be considered as completed until the vessel was brought to Portsmouth. The first deduction, therefore, will be the sum of £250, paid for the services of the steam ship, and £101 stated to have been expended in the affidavit of Mr. Parsons. In regard to the claim which has been set up by Mr. Wingfield, (I will not enter into the question whether he was employed by Mr. Coaker

1843.
15th March.

THE WATT.
for his super-
intendence, will
not be entitled
to claim as a
salvor.

1848.
15th March.
THE WATT.

or the agent at Lloyd's, but confine my consideration solely to the nature of the service which he performed,) I do not think that he is entitled to come before the Court under the appellation of a salvor. He appears to have done no more than this, viz., to have hired persons from Hastings and Eastbourne, who went on board the vessel as the wind and weather permitted, for the purpose of landing the cargo, and performing services which cannot properly be denominated salvage services. For any disbursements which he may have *bona fide* made for the service of the ship, he is of course entitled to be indemnified; and I shall refer the examination of the disbursements to the registrar of the Court. He is also, I think, entitled to some remuneration for his superintendence. The question is, what should be the amount of such remuneration. A tender has been made to him of a guinea per diem, but as this tender may perhaps be considered as rather too small a sum, I shall, in order to prevent litigation, allow one guinea and a half for his personal services. I now come, in the last place, to the claim which has been asserted on behalf of the owners of the Jane Loudon, and I am of opinion that the expenses necessarily incurred by the owners of that vessel, in consequence of the salvage services having been rendered by a part of the crew to the Watt, must be allowed; and these I shall refer to the registrar of the Court.

The expenses which I have thus mentioned having been deducted, I shall decree a moiety of the remaining value of the ship and cargo to the owners and crew of the Jane Loudon, to be distributed in the following proportion, viz., to Mr. Coaker and the six seamen, who were the actual salvors, I shall

give three-fourths of such moiety, they bearing their own proctor's expenses ; the remaining one-fourth I give to the owners of the Jane Loudon and the crew who continued on board that vessel, they also bearing their expenses; and as I consider that in this case the owners of the Jane Loudon have a strong claim in consequence of their vessel having been deprived of so many of her best men, I shall give a moiety of the fourth part decreed to the owners of the Jane Loudon, and the remainder to the persons left on board.

Upon the application of counsel the Court further decreed, that Mr. Coaker should receive a double share, and that the owners of the Watt should pay their own proctor's expenses out of their moiety of the property salved.

1843.
15th March.
THE WATT.

THE DOWTHORPE.* LOFTY.

24th March.

IN this case a suit was brought, in the first instance, against this ship and her freight, for payment of a bond of bottomry.

Other actions were also subsequently entered for pilotage and towage, and for mariners' wages.

The ship was sold under a decree of the Court, and the proceeds of the sale thereof, together with the proceeds of the freight, were brought into the registry.

Judgment was suffered to pass by consent in the several actions.

The original ownership in the ship and freight was vested in T. H., a merchant, of Hull, and in Lofty, the former master ; forty-eight sixty-fourth

Question as to
the appropriation
of the proceeds
of a ship and
freight in satis-
faction of out-
standing judg-
ments.

Assignees of
a bankrupt ship-
owner have a
persona standi to
appear for the
benefit of the
general estate,
and contest the
appropriation of
the proceeds,
against the
assignees of the
freight, seeking
to make the ship
alone liable in

1843.
24th March.

The Dow-
THORPE.

the first instance.
Parties taking an assignment of a ship or freight as security for a debt, take such security liable to subsequently accruing liens, viz. bottomry bonds, salvage, wages, &c.

Claim of a bondholder, for the payment of his bond, directed to be satisfied out of the proceeds of the ship and the freight *pro rata*.

Same principle applied to claims under a judgment of the Court for pilotage, towage, and mariners' wages.

parts or shares belonging to T. H., and the remaining sixteen shares to the master.

Antecedent to the commencement of the proceedings in this Court, T. H. had become a bankrupt, and prior to his bankruptcy he had assigned his interest in the forty-eight shares of the ship to Pease, a broker, of Hull, as security for money advanced. He had also assigned his interest in the freight, subject to certain conditions, to Burney and others, under a deed of assignment.

Application was now made on behalf of the bondholder for payment of his bond out of the proceeds of the ship and freight, and appearances were given for the assignees of the freight under the deed of assignment, and for the assignees under the bankruptcy of T. H., praying to be heard in objection. No objection was made by Pease, and no appearance was given for Loftus, the master.

The question which was raised regarded the appropriation of the funds in the hands of the Court, in satisfaction of the different judgments which had been obtained.

The question was argued by

Haggard and Harding, for the assignees of the freight.

Addams and Bayford, for the assignees of the bankrupt.

White, for the bondholder.

The details of the case and the nature of the objections are fully noticed and elaborately discussed in the judgment of the Court.

JUDGMENT—*Dr. Lushington.*

In this case a bottomry bond was granted at Singapore upon this ship and her freight, upon a voyage from that port to the port of London. The bond was pronounced for in this Court, without opposition, and the present question arises upon the appropriation of the several funds which are in the possession of the Court, in satisfaction of the various demands which have been set up against them.

The funds in question consist: First, of the proceeds of the ship, which has been sold by order of the Court, amounting to the sum of £2621 9s. 8d. Secondly, of the freight, which has been brought into the registry, amounting to the sum of £767 10s. 11d. Thirdly, that portion of the freight for which bail has been given, amounting to £311 16s. 2d. The whole amount of the funds in question being £3700 16s. 9d.

Against these funds the following claims have been asserted. First, the bondholder's claim upon the bottomry bond, amounting to the sum of £1757 10s. 2d.; secondly, the demands for pilotage, towage, and wages, amounting to £491 5s. 5d.; in the whole £2248 15s. 7d. Besides these, there will also be the amount of the proctors' bills for costs when taxed. It is clear, therefore, that the proceeds of the ship alone exceed the whole amount of these several demands. It may possibly be necessary hereafter to consider whether, as regards the funds for payment, there is any distinction between a bottomry bond and the other demands; but I shall postpone the consideration of such questions until I have brought under examination the claims against the ship and freight, or the proceeds thereof, which, in a legal view, are one and the same

1843.
24th March.
THE DOW-THORPE.

1843.
24th March.
THE DOW-
THORPE.

thing; remembering that I have to determine, in the first place, against what funds these demands shall be placed, and not to whom any residue may be ultimately paid out. With regard to the ship, then, it appears that she was built at Stockton, in 1837; that some time in August, 1841, T. Humphreys, the elder, was the owner of forty-eight parts or shares, and Lofty, the master, was the owner of the remaining sixteen shares; that T. Humphreys and his son carried on business under the firm of T. Humphreys, the elder, and T. Humphreys, the younger; but that these forty-eight shares in the vessel were not the property of the partnership, or of any other firm in which Humphreys the elder was engaged, but were a part of his own private estate. That the firm of Humphreys and Son had an account with Pease and Co., Bankers, at Hull, who had made advances to them, and as a security for these advances, and also for further advances that might be made to the firm of himself and son, and to himself individually, or to other firms in which he was engaged, these forty-eight shares were assigned by Humphreys, the elder, to Pease and Co. Thus matters remained, save, probably, with some variation as to the amount of the debt, until June, 1842, when Humphreys and Son became bankrupts. At this time there was due to Pease and Co. the sum of £14,480. Messrs. M., W., and S. were appointed the assignees of Humphreys and Son, and they are the parties now appearing in Court, and seeking to prevent the proceeds of the ship from being made the sole and primary fund for the liquidation of all these demands. No appearance has been given for Pease and Co., and some doubts have been sug-

gested in the argument as to the right of the assignees to appear and make the prayer which they have made. The first question then is, as to the right of the assignees of Humphreys and Son to appear in these proceedings. Now an interest to establish a *persona standi in judicio* is not an absolute right to a given sum of money; but if a person may be injured by a decree in a suit, he has a right to be heard as against the decree; although it may eventually turn out that he can derive no pecuniary benefit from the result of the suit itself. I am clearly of opinion, therefore, that under the circumstances of the case, the assignees of Humphreys, the elder, and Son, have a sufficient *locus standi* to entitle them to appear and protect the portion of the fund which regards the forty-eight shares of the ship which originally belonged to Humphreys, senior. Nor does it at all follow, because Pease and Co. may have an interest, and do not appear in the cause, that therefore the assignees of Humphreys and Son have not an interest also. That the assignees are so entitled to appear, is, I conceive, most amply borne out by the following considerations. In the first place, they have the legal interest, and are entitled to the equity of redemption in these forty-eight shares, or the surplus, after payment of the debt; and it is no answer to say there will be no surplus, for that is a fact only to be ascertained by the final result. Secondly, Pease and Co. have proved their debt against the joint estate of Humphreys and Son, claiming to avail themselves of the security from Humphreys, senior, in liquidation of any balance that may remain due upon their debt, after receiving the dividends upon the joint estate of the bank.

1843.
24th March.
THE DOW-
THORPE.

1843.
24th March.
THE DOW-
THORPE.

rupts, which they are unquestionably entitled to do, the security being on the separate estate of one of the partners. Now, if the dividend upon the joint estate, and the produce of the security, should be more than sufficient to liquidate the debt of Pease and Co., the assignees will be entitled to the surplus of such security. They have, therefore, a beneficial interest in protecting the proceeds of the ship. It may also be further noticed, that the assignees would equally have had an interest, although somewhat different in its kind, if the forty-eight shares had belonged to Humphreys and Son, and not to Humphreys, senior, alone; for in that case, although Pease and Co. must have realized the security before they could have proved against the general and joint estate of the bankrupts, yet the greater the amount which the security produced, the less would have been the amount to be proved against the joint estate.

The question which I have thus far been called upon to determine, is of easy solution; but those which remain behind are not so easily disposed of. The next point to be determined is this:—What was the nature and extent of the right vested in Pease and Co., by the assignment of the forty-eight shares in this vessel? As against Humphreys, the elder, they had a clear right, so long as he remained solvent, to retain, or, if necessary, to sell the security for the liquidation of their debt, and that free from any demand afterwards accruing against the vessel. The ship, it is true, as to third parties, might be primarily liable, but if Humphreys, senior, had continued solvent, he must have made good to Pease and Co. any demand against the ship, though in another shape; for he must

have paid from his own funds any deficiency in the subsequent value of the security which might be caused by those after-accruing demands. For instance : with respect to the bond of bottomry in this suit, if Humphreys, senior, had never become bankrupt, the proportionate amount of the bond would have been to be deducted from the forty-eight shares, and Pease and Co. would have held these shares, minus the extent of the proportionate amount of the bond ; but Humphreys, senior, would have been bound to make good the deficiency, until his debt with Pease and Co. was extinguished. Upon this point no question could have arisen, if Humphreys, senior, had continued solvent ; but his bankruptcy creates a difficulty.

It cannot for a single moment be denied, that a ship, in whosesoever hands she may be, or whoever has an interest in her, is liable to liens subsequently accruing, such, for example, as salvage, bottomry bonds, and seamen's wages. These are liens upon a ship, in the strictest sense of the term ; and those persons who take a vessel as a security, must take it subject to the incumbrances which the law may impose upon it for the benefit of third parties. It is not, indeed, disputed, in the present instance, that the ship which forms the subject of discussion in this case must bear its share of these liens, except, perhaps, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, in the one instance of the seamen's wages ; the question is, whether the burthen shall be spread proportionably over the ship and freight. I would here observe, that the preceding observations apply exclusively to the forty-eight shares of the vessel mortgaged to Pease and Co. ; the remaining sixteen shares, so far as it appears, belong to Lofty, the

1843.
24th March.
THO DOW-
THORPE.

1843.
24th March.
The Dow.
THORKE.

master. No appearance has been given on his behalf; but the process of the Court has been served upon the ship itself, and consequently he must be held to be legally cognizant of these proceedings. At the same time, the Court is bound to protect his interest as much as if he were himself present, or represented by counsel and proctor to protect him. Having made these observations with regard to the ship, I will now advert, in the next place, to the freight. With respect to the freight, it is claimed by virtue of an assignment, dated the 12th of May, 1842; and for the sake of simplifying the case, which, in many respects, is very complicated, I will, in the first instance, assume that the whole freight is duly assigned to the assignees named in the deed, for debts incurred on account of the ship. In the course of the argument, reference was made to the case of the *Percy* (*a*), to which case I will presently advert; and remarks were made upon the difficulty which Sir J. Nicholl felt in allowing a mortgagee of a ship to intervene (in a case where a bondholder was proceeding against the ship only, and not against the freight also). This difficulty has not been insisted on in the present case, and very properly so; for seeing that the statute 3 & 4 Vict. c. 65, sect. 32, has relieved the Court from all obstacles which formerly existed as to the titles of mortgagees in respect to the ship, I cannot but think that the same statute, which enables this Court to adjudicate upon the claims of mortgagees against ships, virtually confers upon the Court the same power over the freights, or the funds in Court representing the freights, otherwise it would be

(*a*) *Haggard's Admiralty Reports*, vol. iii. p. 402.

impossible for the Court to determine a question of mortgage upon the net proceeds of the ship itself. Assuming, then, the whole of the freight in this case to be duly assigned to the assignees named in the deed, is such freight to be exempted from all liability to the payment of this bond, at least until the whole of the proceeds of the ship have been exhausted? If so, on what principle is the ship to be considered as the exclusive fund? What is the first and great principle which ought to regulate all liability to pay? I conceive that such liability must, in equity, be governed by the principle, that he who takes a benefit should bear his share of the burthen. In the majority of bottomry transactions, where the ownership of the freight and of the ship are ordinarily vested in the same person, no question can arise; but where these interests are severed, the principle becomes applicable. Both the ship and the freight are benefited by a bottomry transaction; and it is essential to a legal bottomry bond that it should be so. Why, then, because the freight is assigned to one person, and the interest in the ship belongs to another, is the burthen to be borne by the ship alone? Equity and justice, it appears to me, forbid any such conclusion. Having thus far considered the question upon principle, I will now refer to the authority of decided cases, and see whether they are opposed to the principle which justice calls upon me to apply in the present instance. The case cited in the argument was the case of the Percy; and the decision in that case seems to me to have been entirely founded upon the ground that the applicant was a mortgagee. True it is, that general words were used by Sir

1848.
24th March.
THE DOW-
THORPE.

1843.
24th March.
THE Dow-
THORPE.

John Nicholl in delivering his judgment, without qualification, but still I think that, in fairness, the decision of Sir J. Nicholl cannot be considered to extend beyond the circumstances of the case; and the case did not require him to decide what should be done where the ownership of the ship and freight were vested in different persons. In that case, a monition was applied for, to bring in the freight at the instance of the mortgagees of the ship, the ship having been sold, in a cause of bottomry; but the Court refused the application. Caveats were then entered, on the part of the mortgagees, against the payment of the proceeds of the ship to the bondholder. Sir John Nicholl was of opinion that a mortgagee of a ship had not such an interest as would entitle him to appear in this Court. Now, I greatly doubt whether the principle, which governed the proceedings of this Court at the time when this decision was made, were not carried too far in the judgment of Sir J. Nicholl. A mortgagee, undoubtedly, at that time, could not initiate proceedings in the Court of Admiralty; but it is quite a different question, whether he could not intervene to protect his interest when a suit was already instituted by parties competent to do so. Sir J. Nicholl said, "There is sufficient to discharge this bond out of the proceeds of the ship. The freight, it is true, is part of the bondholder's security, but he is not compellable to enforce it. I am not aware that this Court has ever taken up questions of this kind, as between mortgagees and owners; if it is bound to enter into them, the mortgagee should obtain an injunction to bar the payment of the existing proceeds to the bondholder; but, unless the Court is so stopped, I adhere to the

opinion that he is entitled to have his bond and interest paid out of the sale of the ship, and that a mortgagee has no right to impede the payment." Now the evident consequence of that judgment, if carried to its full extent, would result in this: that supposing the law of this Court, with respect to mortgagees, had remained unaltered, in no case could the mortgagee of a ship (and mortgagees of ships are of every day occurrence) appear in a suit to protect his interest. The question is now set at rest by the late Act of Parliament; but I am inclined to think that, although previous to the passing of the Act 3 & 4 Victoria a mortgagee could not have initiated a suit in this Court, yet he might have intervened for the protection of his interest.

I will now refer to another case, which establishes a different doctrine, and it is most probable that at the time Sir J. Nicholl decided the case of the Percy, he was not apprised of a former decision of Lord Stowell. I think, therefore, that the case of the Percy is not to be considered as a conclusive authority against the application of the equitable principle which I am now discussing.

The case to which I am about to refer, was decided by Lord Stowell in the year 1821, and, to the best of my belief, it has never been reported; but I was myself counsel in the case, and I have referred to my own notes, and to the original papers in the cause. The case in question was the case of the Prince Regent; and it appears to me to sustain completely the principle which I consider applicable to the present case, and it, moreover, decided some very important questions.

In that case, the bond was upon the ship and

1843.
24th March.

THE DOW-
THORPE.

1843.
24th March.
THE Dow-
THORPE.

cargo only, not mentioning the freight. The ship and cargo were arrested, and the freight was paid over to other parties, before the suit commenced, at the instance of the bondholder. The ship proved insufficient for the discharge of the bond, but the cargo was ample for that purpose. In May, 1821, Lord Stowell decreed that the bondholder should be paid the balance of the proceeds of the ship, wages deducted, and should be put in possession of the cargo, so far as was necessary for the full payment of the bond. The owner of the cargo prayed a monition against the owner of the freight. Now mark the extent to which Lord Stowell altered his decision. The owner of the cargo, that is, the owner of part of the property under hypothecation, prayed a monition against the owners of a part of the property not specifically made liable by the bond; an act on petition was brought in, and the owners of the freight rested their defence upon the ground that the freight was not bound, not being named in the bond, and that it had not been arrested at the suit of the bondholder, as he had not proceeded against the freight, but against the ship alone. Lord Stowell required the freight to be brought in, and subsequently he pronounced it to be subject to contribution in discharge of the bond. The decree is to this effect, as I find it indorsed upon my brief: "The Court pronounced for the bond, with interest and costs, and directed the freight to be brought in and to be made subject to average." Before I proceed to notice the ultimate result of this case, I will here state how importantly it bears upon the question I am now considering. In the first place, it shows that where a bondholder has directly, or by intendment, a lien

on the freight and cargo, and the property in these is vested in different owners, the owners of the one may have the aid of this Court to bring the other into contribution, without the bondholder's movement or concurrence; secondly, it establishes the power of this Court to apportion the liability between the two. Now, in the case of the Prince Regent, a subsequent question was mooted, and in June, 1842, Lord Stowell further decided that the freight and ship must be exhausted before recourse could be had to the cargo; but, in making that decision, he made no departure from his former judgment in respect to the ship and freight. Upon the principle of justice, therefore, and the authority of Lord Stowell, I am of opinion, that in all ordinary cases, (there may be exceptions under particular circumstances,) where the ship and freight belong to different persons, the demand of a bottomry bondholder should be paid by both, *pro rata*; and this rule I shall apply, as far as I am enabled, to the present case.

With regard to the demands for pilotage and wages, I see no reason why the same principle should not apply in the present instance; at the same time, I must be understood as not expressing an opinion that it will do so in all cases. The exertions of the pilot and seamen contribute equally to the preservation of the ship and freight. Cases may arise in which the freight may have been paid beforehand, and if so, that circumstance might create a difference. There may also be other cases of exception, and it is to prevent misunderstanding hereafter that I am desirous expressly to guard myself from being supposed to say that the rule will apply in all cases.

1843.
24th March.
THE DOW-
THORPE.

1843.
24th March.

THE DOW-
THORPE.

I have hitherto considered the question, upon the assumption that the whole of the freight belongs to the assignees named in the deed of the 12th of May, 1842, but, unfortunately, that is not the case before the Court; and hence have arisen the real difficulties which I have had to encounter in the case. The apprehension of these difficulties, I confess, almost disposed me, in the first instance, to apply the principle generally, without regard to the peculiar circumstances of this case, arising from the deed of May, 1842; but I considered, upon reflection, that in so doing I should only have postponed the evil day, and that the same difficulty would have arisen hereafter, in a more complicated shape, when the balance of the funds in Court should be demanded; or that I must have retained the funds till a suit in equity had been commenced, and judgment been delivered upon them. Considering it to be my duty, if possible, to ward off from the parties interested this serious consequence, I will now more exclusively address myself to the deed of 1842, recollecting that the freight would be divisible amongst the owners, according to their shares in the vessel, and that Humphreys, senior, was entitled to forty-eight shares, and Lofty, the master, to the remaining sixteen shares.

The deed in question purports to assign the whole of the freight, but the parties to it, besides the assignees, are only Humphreys, the elder, and Nichol, the broker. It has not, and I think could not be contended, that Humphreys, the elder, could assign more than his own forty-eight shares. It has, however, been urged, that Nichol, the broker, was the ship's broker, and, as such, was legally authorized to pledge the whole freight. For such a

position, I know of no authority. Surely it does not follow that a broker, because he is employed to obtain a charterparty for a vessel, can assign the freight to other persons, without the consent of those to whom it legally belongs. Such a doctrine is, to me, wholly new, and, if admissible, would be evidently inconsistent with the protection of the interests of British ship-owners.

If I was told that this was a mercantile custom, I might have hesitated in expressing an opinion, but, as it is, I cannot reconcile, consistently with the interest of ship-owners, the doctrine that a ship's broker can assign the freight of a part owner, without his direct authority and concurrence. It has been said, that the deed may be supported against Lofty, the master and part owner in the present instance, because the assignment was made for the protection of Nichol, who was a creditor against all the owners of the vessel for money advanced for the service of the ship. Assume that he was a creditor, as suggested. Would that circumstance entitle him to assign, for his own protection, the property of one of his debtors, without his consent? Can a personal creditor assign the property, be it freight or any thing else, of his debtor, without his consent? I never heard of such a proposition, and cannot believe it to be correctly founded. The very terms of the indenture before the Court incline me to believe, that the parties to the assignment were themselves cognizant that the whole of the freight was not legally assigned by the deed, for at the conclusion of it I find a provision and a covenant in the following words: "That for the considerations therein mentioned, they the said T. H. and J. N. did bargain, sell, assign, transfer,

1843.
24th March.

THE DOW-
THORPE.

1843.
24th March.
THE DOW-
THEPE.

and make over unto the said William Burnee and Co., all the freight and earnings of the said ship, and all benefit of lien upon the cargo, and the benefit of all policies of insurance, in which the said T. H. and J. N. were interested, upon trust," &c.

It has been suggested that this is a mere ordinary clause. Be it so; but, independent of the clause, I see no reason to conclude that Lofty was bound by the deed itself.

For the reasons, then, to which I have adverted, I think that Lofty's share in the freight was not duly assigned by the deed. If this be so, what did pass to the assignees under the deed of 1842? The forty-eight shares of the freight belonging to Humphreys, the elder, and these to be applied according to the covenants of the deed. And hereupon another question arises with regard to the payment of wages out of the freight. The assignees under the deed take expressly on the condition of paying the wages, after defraying the expense of the deed. I have been asked to disregard this provision of the deed; but I cannot discover upon what reason I am to do so. How does the case stand? The original title to the forty-eight shares of the freight was in Humphreys, the elder. All that remains of that right not parted with in the deed, is in the assignees under the bankruptcy of Humphreys and Son; for the assignees under the deed can have no further right as against the assignees under the fiat than they could have had as against Humphreys, the elder, himself; if he might have required a specific performance of the stipulations of the deed, so may the bankruptcy assignees, for they now represent him. If Humphreys, senior, had not become a bankrupt, he

might undoubtedly have required that the freight, after payment of the expenses of the deed, should be applied, in the first instance, to a liquidation of the wages. The same right of enforcing the conditions of the deed is now vested in the assignees under the bankruptcy ; and I do not see in what way the original condition of the assignees under the deed is prejudiced by this. They took the freight subject to a condition, viz., the payment of the wages, and also of all liens which the law might subsequently impose upon the vessel ; they will now receive their proportion of the freight, deducting their proportion of the wages, a condition annexed to their title, and of the bond and wages, which are liens imposed by law.

I will now endeavour to state, as intelligibly as the complicated circumstances of the case will permit, the mode in which I propose to deal with the various funds which are in the possession of the Court. The amount of the bond, together with the pilotage and wages, must be paid proportionably out of the whole proceeds of the ship and freight. The wages, so far as Humphreys, the elder, may be liable, must be borne in substance by the forty-eight shares of the freight, so as to indemnify the general estate of Humphreys, senior, from any liability on that account. Lofty, the master, not being a party to the deed, is not entitled to be benefited by it. The wages therefore must be paid, in the first instance, out of the general proceeds of the ship and freight proportionably ; and the forty-eight shares in the hands of the assignees under the deed, must indemnify the assignees under the bankruptcy as to his proportion of the wages. Lofty must

1848.
24th March.
THE DOW-
THORPE.

1843.
24th March.
THE DOW-
THORPE.

bear his proportion as the owner of sixteen shares in the ship and freight.

It may now be convenient to state, not as delivering a final judgment on the point, but for the purpose of affording information which may prevent future litigation, what will probably be the ultimate disposition of the funds. The residue of the forty-eight shares of the ship will belong to Pease and Co., unless upon further information the Court shall be enabled to pay them to the assignees under the fiat of bankruptcy. The remaining sixteen shares of the ship will belong to Lofty; or if he is become a bankrupt, as suggested by the counsel in arguing the case, to his assignees. The residue of the forty-eight shares in the freight will be payable to the assignees under the deed of 1842;—the residue of the remaining sixteen shares to Lofty, or, as the case may be, to his assignees. This, I apprehend, will be the ultimate working out of the principle which the Court thinks applicable to this case. From the difficult and complicated chain of circumstances which I have had to unravel in forming my decision, it is possible that I may have erred in some of the details, or may not have expressed myself with sufficient clearness. I shall therefore direct this decree not to be entered for one week, in order to give all parties interested the opportunity to consider it. If any party thinks the decree unjustly prejudicial to his interest, and shall signify the same in the registry, I will appoint a day to hear his objections; but I wish it to be distinctly understood, that no objection to the general principle upon which the liens upon the ship

and freight have been apportioned, will be open to discussion. The objections must be confined strictly to the application of those principles to the peculiar circumstances of this case.

It would have been a great relief to my mind if I could have confined my judgment to the simple declaration, that the bond and other liens should be paid out of the proceeds of the ship and freight proportionably; but I could not avoid seeing that the result of such a decision would have been, that I should have relieved myself at the expense of the parties in the suit. Its effect must have been either that the proceeds of the ship and freight must have remained in the registry, to await a decision in a suit in equity, or all these questions must have been agitated upon motion to pay out the balance of the proceeds. I do not wish to forestall any questions of the kind which can arise. In forming my opinion, I have, to the best of my ability, considered all the points upon which I have pronounced my decision; and if the parties are dissatisfied with it, they have still open to them every remedy which they possess.

The costs of the bondholder must be paid out of the proceeds of the ship and freight:—as to the other parties, I give no costs.

1843.
24th March.
THE DOW-THORPE.

THE OCEAN. MARTIN.

19th April.

THIS was a question of salvage under the circumstances noticed in the judgment of the Court.

For the salvors, *Harding*.

For the owners, *Addams*.

The carrying an order for a steamer to go out of harbour, to a vessel which was in danger and distress, held to be a salvage

1843.
19th April.
THE OCEAN.
service under
the circum-
stances of the
case.

Per Curiam.

A tender of £10 has been offered by the owners of the Ocean for services which are admitted to have been rendered by the salvors in the present instance, and the question which I have to determine is, whether, under the circumstances of the case, such tender is a sufficient compensation. The facts of the case are shortly these:—On the morning of the 15th of November, the salvors, consisting of five men, including the master, had been occupied in the North Sea in fishing, but, in consequence of the state of the weather, they were compelled to give up their employment, and were making for the shore, when they observed the brig the Ocean apparently without canvass and in distress. It is expressly averred, on behalf of the salvors, that, at the time when they were so making for the shore, they were on the look out to render assistance to any vessel which might happen to be in a state of distress; and I must say that this averment is highly probable, because, in the first place, the period of the year in which the transaction took place appears to render it likely; and it is a matter of notoriety, that fishing vessels off the coast are alternately, almost universally, employed in the performance of salvage services. Observing the Ocean apparently in distress, the salvors immediately altered the course of their vessel, and proceeded to her assistance. There is some discrepancy in the statements as to what passed when the vessels neared each other. On behalf of the Ocean, it is stated that a verbal communication was made to the fishing smack by the master of the Ocean; but, on behalf of the salvors, it is alleged that the effect of that communication could

not be understood by the persons on board the fishing smack, in consequence of the noise made by the sea and wind. I am inclined to think that the statement of the salvors is the correct statement, and for this reason, viz., that they proceeded to board the Ocean; and it is admitted by the master of the Ocean, in his affidavit, that the boarding of the vessel was not unattended with risk and danger. He says that the degree of danger has been exaggerated by the salvors, but he admits that there was risk and peril in the attempt; and it is not very probable that if the smack's men had heard the communication, and there had been no necessity whatever for their encountering this danger, they would voluntarily and unnecessarily have exposed themselves to it. With respect to what took place when the salvors got on board, the respective statements are again most conflicting. The master of the Ocean swears most distinctly that he informed the salvors that his vessel was not in any danger, and that he only wished to have her removed from the situation in which she then was. This statement is directly denied on the other side; and looking to the probabilities of the case, I must say that the balance of credibility again strongly inclines in favour of the salvors. What is the obvious meaning of the latter part of the master of the Ocean's statement, that he only wished to have his vessel removed from the place in which she then was? Does it not convey an evident intimation on his part, that although he might not perhaps have considered his vessel in a situation of immediate danger, yet he did not regard the position in which she was then placed as a safe one. This is the construction which I am disposed to put upon it, and I am confirmed in my opinion

1843.
19th April.
THE OCEAN.

1843.
19th April.
THE OCEAN.

by the order in writing, which was subsequently given, for a steamer to come out to his assistance. It is stated, indeed, by the master of the Ocean, that when he delivered the orders in writing into the hands of the salvors, it was accompanied by a verbal communication that he should not require the assistance of the steamer in case she did not come out immediately, and in case the weather should moderate.

It is unfortunate, I think, that the written order did not embody this intimation, because it would have cleared up a great deal of doubt and uncertainty in this case. Before I more immediately advert to the written order itself, I will here briefly notice the account which the master of the Ocean gives, in his deposition, of the circumstances under which it was written. He says in his affidavit in these words : "that he, the deponent, acting under the advice of the pilot, was apprehensive, in case of the gale increasing, that the brig might not be able to ride it out in her before-mentioned position ;" and he then goes on to state, "that he gave the aforesaid order to the said smack's men to send out a steamer forthwith, with the express verbal directions as aforesaid—that the same would not be required unless she arrived before or during the said night." It is here to be observed, that although, according to this statement, it was at the suggestion and advice of the pilot, that the master of the Ocean was apprehensive that the brig was in danger, and that the order was written, yet the pilot himself makes no affidavit, on the present occasion, either on the one side or on the other. The Court has, I think, reason to complain that it has thus been left, in the present instance, without the judgment of that individual,

upon whom, in a matter of this description, it would have been induced to place considerable reliance. I will now refer to the written order in question, which has been brought in as an exhibit in the cause. It is dated 14th of November, 1841, and is in these words :—"Sir, Please to send, as soon as possible, a steam-boat to tow me up to London, the vessel being disabled and in danger, and I cannot work her." It is addressed to the Steam Towing Company or any other, and at the conclusion of it is written, "Let the bearer come with the steamer."

Now looking to the terms in which this order is drawn up, it is impossible for a single moment to doubt, upon the face of the document itself, what were the real motives which induced the writer to give the order in question to procure the assistance of a steamer. It is, I am bound to hold, a statement in plain and intelligible terms, not to be misunderstood, that either in the apprehension of the writer, or of the pilot who had the charge of the vessel, supposing it to have been written at his suggestion, the vessel had been disabled, in consequence of the wind and weather to which she had been exposed; that she was in a state of danger, and that they were unable to extricate her without the assistance which was craved through the medium of this letter. With respect to the qualification, even assuming it to be true that the master of the Ocean did accompany it with a verbal direction that the steamer would not be required unless she arrived before or during the night, it was evidently a qualification extremely difficult to be acted upon, because the precise time when the steamer could get out of Ramsgate Harbour, or the

1843.
19th April.
THE OCEAN.

1843.
19th April.
THE OCEAN.

exact period at which she might be able to reach the Ocean, must have been matter of great uncertainty under the circumstances of the case.

The remaining facts of the case may be summed up in a few words. The salvors conveyed the order to Ramsgate, and a steamer went out to the assistance of the Ocean, accompanied by the master of the fishing smack, and on the following morning her services were accepted, and she towed the vessel proceeded against in safety up to the port of London. It may here also be noticed, as a circumstance not altogether without its bearing upon the question at issue, that the rate at which the steamer was paid was not that of ordinary towage payment. This is not an unimportant circumstance, as showing that the vessel at that time was in such a state and condition that more than the ordinary rate of towage could be justifiably demanded by the owners of the steam vessel, and was paid by the owners of the Ocean.

With regard to the absence of the protest, I place no reliance upon it in the present instance; because this is not a case in which great damage was done to the vessel, or in which it was particularly necessary to make a protest, for the purpose of making good a claim upon the underwriters. The value of the ship, cargo, and freight is £10,500, and although I do not think that the value can be said to form an important ingredient for consideration, under the circumstances of the case, yet I do not think it is altogether to be left out of my estimate. I think that the salvors are entitled to be remunerated—

1st. For their readiness during stormy weather to render assistance to ships in distress.

2ndly. For the peril which they encountered in boarding this vessel.

3rdly. For the actual service rendered in conveying the message to the port of Ramsgate, and in the master returning as he did with the steamer, and accompanying the vessel to London. It is desirable that the salvors should be well paid for their services, and I shall overrule the tender, and decree them the sum of £40, for the general encouragement of similar efforts.

1843.
19th April.

THE OCEAN.

THE FLORIDA. PROVENÇA.

28th April.

IN this case, the Portuguese schooner the Florida was seized and taken, with a cargo of 283 slaves on board, by her Majesty's brig of war Harpy and carried to the Island of Grenada, where, in consequence of the vessel being unseaworthy, the slaves were landed and delivered over to the collector and controller of Her Majesty's customs at that island. The vessel was sold, and the proceeds of the sale, amounting to £318 6s., were paid to P. G., the agent appointed to act for the captors at that island.

An attachment for contempt of Court decreed against a brig of war's agent, residing in the Island of Grenada, for non-payment into the mixed Commission Court, at Sierra Leone, of the proceeds of a slave capture, as directed by a monition from the Court of Admiralty.

Proceedings were subsequently instituted by the captors in the mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, and on the 21st of November, 1839, the schooner, her tackle, &c., were condemned to the captors. Applications were subsequently made to P. G. to remit the proceeds of the sale of the vessel to this country for the purpose of distribution, but without effect.

1843.
28th April.
THE FLORIDA.

Upon the 9th of July, 1841, a monition was decreed to issue against J. P., for payment of the proceeds into the registry of the mixed Commission Court, within sixty days after service thereof. The monition was returned duly executed, and an affidavit was brought in sworn by the registrar of the mixed Commission Court, stating that he had examined the records of the mixed Commission Court, since the date of the decree of condemnation, to the 27th of February, 1843, and that neither the said sum of £318 6s., nor any part thereof, had up to that time been paid into the registry of that Court.

Under these circumstances, the Court was now moved to decree an attachment for contempt of Court to issue against the said P. G.

Attachment decreed.

28th April.

THE ANNE AND JANE. BOYCE.

Question of practice as to pleading.

Objections to the admission of a reply in a cause of damage, upon the ground of redundancy and irrelevancy, overruled.

S&mble: where the parties suing are foreigners, the Court will be more indulgent in overlooking mere technical defects in the conduct of the proceedings than in the case of a British suitor.

IN this case, which was a case of damage by collision, an act on petition and an answer had been admitted in the cause. A reply was now brought in, and the admission of this reply was opposed.

In support of the objection—

Addams and *Robinson* submitted: That it was incumbent upon the party proceeding in a cause to state his case in the first instance, and it was not competent to him to lie by and plead, in subsequent pleas, facts that must have been within his knowledge when the original plea was given in. That

some portion of the plea now offered was open to objection upon this ground. That other parts of the plea were a mere repetition of matters pleaded in the original act; and lastly, that the reason assigned, in the conclusion of the reply, for the delay which had intervened in the institution of the proceedings, was no excuse at all, inasmuch that the owners of the *Jeune Flavie*, though foreigners, by resorting, in the first instance, to the assistance and advice of practitioners of the Court, might have been informed, at a much earlier period, of the legal mode of obtaining their redress.

1843.
28th April.
THE ANNE AND
JANE.

Phillimore and Harding, contrà—

That as regarded the practice of the Court, the objections which had been taken were somewhat unusual and irregular, and were calculated to produce great inconvenience, by causing an increase of delay and expense to the suitors. That the statement in the conclusion of the reply was a sufficient justification of the delay which had taken place in commencing the proceedings. That although some of the averments might possibly have been set forth more conveniently in the original act on petition, in deciding their admissibility, the Court must consider them in conjunction with the fact, that the owners and crew of the vessel which had been run down were foreigners, residing abroad, and, upon this ground, were entitled to a more favourable indulgence from the Court than might be allowed in the case of an English suitor. Lastly, that even if defective in some technical details, the contents of the plea were properly admissible, as in substance replying, either directly or indirectly,

1843.
28th April.
THE ANNE AND JANE.

to the answers of the owners of the Anne and Jane (a).

(a) The several pleas in the cause are here subjoined in a note.

Substance of act on petition.

That on the 15th of April, 1841, the sloop Jeune Flavie, of forty-two tons burthen, sailed from Shields, laden with a cargo of coals, and bound for Dunkirk, in the kingdom of France. That she proceeded on her voyage, without any thing occurring, until the morning of the 18th of April, when she arrived within four or five miles of Flamborough Head, to the northward. That at half-past two of the said morning, the wind being w.s.w., and the night very dark, the sloop steering s. by e. or the starboard tack, the master and others of the crew who were on deck at the time keeping a good look-out, observed a ship (viz., the schooner Anne and Jane) at a short distance coming down upon them with the wind free, and studding-sails set; that the master and crew of the Jeune Flavie immediately hailed the said schooner to put her helm astarboard, in order to avoid them, but, instead of doing so, the helm was ported, and the schooner, in consequence thereof, struck the sloop amidships with such violence that in less than six minutes she sunk. That the master of the sloop, a passenger who was on board, and all the crew, with the exception of the mate who went down with the sloop and was drowned, got on board the Anne and Jane, and went in her to Scarborough; and G. alleged, that at the time when the said Jeune Flavie was run down as aforesaid, her mainsail was lowered for the purpose of reefing it, and it was impossible for the master to have adopted any measures in order to avoid the collision. That the schooner Anne and Jane, having the wind free, might easily have avoided the sloop, and it was her duty to have kept a good look-out, and have gone clear of the said sloop. That the loss of the said sloop and of the effects on board was entirely owing to the want of skill and seamanship of the master and crew of the schooner Anne and Jane, and not to any neglect or misconduct of her own master and crew. Wherefore G. prayed, &c., &c.

Substance of the answer of the Anne and Jane.

That on the 15th of April, 1841, the said schooner, of sixty-

Per Curiam.

It has been observed by the counsel who have supported the admission of this plea, that the course

1843.
28th April.

THE ANNE AND JANE.

eight tons burthen, and with a crew of five hands, the master inclusive, sailed in ballast for the port of London to Scarborough. That by half-past two, A.M., of the 18th of the said month of April, the said schooner was to the northward of, having previously rounded, Flamborough Head, and was sailing close-hauled on the larboard tack, with the wind neither from the w.s.w. nor free, as untruly alleged, but from the w., as it had been from ten o'clock P.M. of the preceding day. That the morning was dark and rainy, and the schooner's course cut Scarborough N.N.W. half w. That at such time, the master and two of the crew of the Anne and Jane, being on the deck, and keeping a good look-out, saw the sloop Jeune Flavie, the vessel proceeding in the cause, directly ahead, approaching, and then almost close to the schooner on the starboard tack, whereupon the said master, supposing the sloop would keep her wind, as it was her duty to have done, immediately directed the man at the helm to put the schooner's helm aweather, which he immediately did, when the schooner, answering her helm, flew off three points. That the master also, at the same time, hailed the sloop to keep her luff, but that those on board her put her helm up, and a collision instantly ensued by reason thereof, the schooner striking the sloop on her starboard side before the mast, within not more than two minutes from the time of her being first seen from the schooner's deck. That the master and crew of the schooner, finding that she was sinking, used their utmost exertions, and successfully, with one exception, to save the master and crew of the sloop, which shortly afterwards sunk. That about five, A.M., of the same day, a pilot took charge of the said schooner, and brought her into Scarborough Harbour, when it was found necessary to caulk and otherwise repair her, in consequence of the damage she had sustained; and B. denied that the schooner had her studding-sails set, either at the time of the collision, or at any time between then and 11 P.M. of the preceding day. He also denied that the master and crew of the sloop, at any time, hailed the schooner to put her helm astarboard, or that a good look-out was kept on board the sloop; part of the crew, to wit, two men, being in a state of intoxication at the time, and there being only one man and two boys on deck. And B. further alleged, that the

1843.
28th April.—
THE ANNE AND JANE.

which has been adopted in taking these objections is a novel mode of proceeding, and one that is irre-
sloop, being a fore and aft rigged vessel, was sailing with the wind free, and had her mainsail set, and not lowered, as falsely alleged. That the whole blame of the collision was imputable to the persons on board the sloop. Wherefore, &c.

Substance of the reply, the plea in question in the case.

That at the time of the aforesaid collision, the shock was so great that the crew belonging to the said sloop Jeune Flavie had only time to save themselves in the rigging of the said schooner Anne and Jane; and said G. denied that there was a good look-out kept on board the schooner, for that, if such had been the case, the accident could not have occurred. That at the time of said collision there was only one person on the deck of the schooner, to wit, a boy, who was at the helm; that the whole of the crew were below, who, upon the said collision taking place, ran upon deck without their clothes, and having lowered the sails, applied themselves to the boat which was on deck, for the purpose of lowering the same, in order to save themselves, without endeavouring to render any assistance to the crew of the Jeune Flavie; that, on the contrary, it was because no aid of any description was afforded to them that the mate Minniboo, who had succeeded in laying hold of the bowsprit, was drowned when the bowsprit broke under his weight; and said G. further alleged, that at the time of the said collision the whole crew belonging to the sloop were on deck, and occupied in reefing the mainsail, which was then lowered; that they had a lighted lantern, and a man at the head on the look-out; and said G. further denied that the wind was westerly at half-past two, A.M., of the 18th of April. On the contrary, he alleged that, about half-past two of the said day, the wind veered to the w.s.w., and remained in that quarter until after the collision; and the said G. positively denied that, at the time when the accident took place, any of the crew of the said sloop were in a state of intoxication, or were below, as alleged, but were at such time upon deck busily employed in reefing the mainsail, and on the look-out, as before alleged, and one of the crew rendered every assistance in his power to prevent the mate from being drowned; and G. denied that the helm of the said sloop was ever put up or in any way shifted, from the time the schooner was first seen until the happening of the collision;

gular and inconvenient as regards the general practice of the Court. This observation is perfectly true, so far as respects the usual mode of conducting proceedings in this Court; at the same time, it is equally true, that it is competent to parties in a suit to take such objections. In the case of the Ville de Varsovie, an objection of the same kind was taken, not to the whole of an act on petition, but only to a part. In the argument at the bar, the same observation was made which has been pressed in the present instance, viz., that the raising the objection was an entirely novel proceeding, but Lord Stowell overruled it, and determined that he was bound to entertain the objection, if it was well founded. Upon a perusal of the papers, Lord Stowell thought that the objection was well founded, and directed the exceptionable parts to be expunged. Upon the authority of Lord Stowell's decision, then, it is clear that the parties in this suit, whether plaintiff or defendant, are entitled to raise objections to the adverse pleadings, if they shall think it expedient to do so. At the same time, I entirely accede to the observation, that it

and he lastly alleged that proceedings would have commenced at a much earlier period against the said schooner Anne and Jane, had not the owner of the sloop first endeavoured by repeated application to J. M., the owner of the schooner, to obtain compensation, and when these endeavours were without effect, he, being a foreigner and ignorant of the proper mode of obtaining redress, subsequently made application to Lord Palmerston and to Monsieur Guizot, the Minister for Foreign Affairs in France, upon the subject of his loss, and that it was not until they both declined to interfere in his behalf that he discovered the proper mode of obtaining redress was to cause the said schooner to be arrested by process from the Court of Admiralty, in order to answer for the damage sustained. Wherefore, &c. &c.

1843.
28th April.
THE ANNE AND
JANE.

1843.
28th April.
THE ANNE AND
JANE.

would be most inconvenient to the practice of the Court if such objections were raised upon ordinary occasions, or upon slight grounds, because it would necessarily lead to delay, and an increase of expense to the suitors.

The question, then, which I have to determine is, whether, upon a consideration of its contents, this plea is so perfectly objectionable, either in substance or in form, that it must be altogether rejected; or whether certain portions of it are so exceptionable that the Court must direct them to be either amended or expunged.

Now, in all these cases, it is most desirable that the whole case of the parties proceeding should be fully stated in the first instance. It may occasionally happen that difficulty will arise in attempting to decide what is strictly in the nature of a reply, and what ought to have been stated in the first instance. It may, however, be laid down as a general rule for the guidance of practitioners, that whatever is pleaded in the nature of a reply must be either in contradiction of what is alleged in the answer or explanatory of averments in the defence, or else necessary to corroborate the original statements in the cause. Applying this rule to the contents of the plea now brought in, I certainly am of opinion that, in strictness, there are facts stated in it which ought, if stated at all, to have been set forth in the original act on petition. I now allude to the averments that have been pointed out by the counsel for the owners of the Anne and Jane respecting the absence of the crew of that vessel from on deck at the time of the collision, and their refusal to lend their assistance to the mate, Minniboo, who had succeeded in laying hold

of their bowsprit, and was drowned, as it is alleged, when the bowsprit broke, because no aid of any description was afforded by them. These averments, if pleaded at all, should, I think, have been pleaded in the act on petition; and I further concur in the remark which was thrown out by the counsel for the Anne and Jane, that the averments in question are not, correctly speaking, matters of reply at all; not being called for by any thing which has been stated in the answer. With regard to other portions of this plea, I am also of opinion that some of the facts pleaded do, as it appears to me, savour of repetition. I allude to the quarter in which the wind was blowing, and more particularly to the fact that the mainsail of the Jeune Flavie was lowered upon the deck, and that the crew were employed in reefing the sail at the time the accident took place. This averment is directly and distinctly set forth in the original act, and is pleaded twice over in this reply. Surely this repetition might have been avoided. With respect to the concluding averment, that the owner of the Jeune Flavie made the application as stated to Lord Palmerston and the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, before commencing his proceedings in this Court, I certainly do not see in what way this statement has any relevancy to the issue in the present suit. Even assuming it to be admissible, I do not foresee any benefit which the party pleading it can derive from its admission. Having made these observations upon the parts of the plea which have been objected to, I must here notice that there are other parts of the plea to which no objection whatever is taken. The question, therefore, is not whether I ought to reject the whole

1843.
28th April
THE ANNE AND
JANE.

1843.
28th April.
THE ANNE AND
JANE.

of this reply—for that I cannot do—but whether I ought to direct it to be reformed by striking out those parts which ought to have been inserted in the original act, and those portions which are superfluous or irrelevant. If this had been a proceeding by a British owner, I should have viewed the objections which have been taken with more favour than I am disposed to entertain towards them in the present instance. In the case of a British suitor, the Court would be warranted in holding him more strictly to the observance of the technical forms of its proceedings, because he would be more competent to form an opinion of what ought to be done, and would have better means of acquiring the necessary information. With regard to a foreigner, I think he is entitled to greater indulgence. Looking, then, at the whole of this reply, and thinking, as I do, that there are some parts which are not strictly relevant, some parts which are manifestly superfluous, and some which certainly ought to have been pleaded in the original act on petition, yet upon the ground that it is the case of a foreigner, I conceive that it will be more conducive to the final attainment of justice in the cause if I admit the plea in its present form. I therefore decline to make any order for its reformation, and of course it must be understood that if more expense is incurred, and it shall turn out that the foreigner has made a complaint which he is not able to substantiate, the increased costs will fall upon him.

13th July.

Upon the 13th of July, 1843, this cause was argued upon the merits before Trinity Masters.

Per Curiam.

Gentlemen—It is to be lamented that the present action was not brought until twenty months after the time when the collision occurred; but some allowance must be made on account of the parties proceeding being foreigners, and upon the present occasion it fortunately happens that a protest was made by the master of the Jeune Flavie immediately after the collision, and there is no discrepancy of any importance between the contents of that protest and the subsequent affidavits. In the course of the argument, observations were thrown out respecting the amount for which the action has been entered; but, as I have observed in previous cases of this kind, these observations can have no bearing upon the point which you will have to decide, because the amount of the damage, if disputed, must be matter of future reference to the registrar and merchants, and must be determined by the rules and principles which are peculiar to such a form of inquiry. The decision which you will have to pronounce will be confined simply to the conduct of the vessel proceeded against. With respect to the facts of the case, you will observe that the statements of both parties in the cause are in many respects the same. There is no difference with respect to the place where the collision occurred. There is also no difference as to the darkness of the night, and that the French vessel was proceeding from north to south, and the course of the Anne and Jane was towards the north. There is, indeed, a difference between the two parties as to the quarter from which the wind blew. On the part of the Jeune Flavie it is stated as w.s.w., the sloop steering s. by e., and on the star-

1843.
13th July.THE ANNE AND
JANE.Case heard upon
its merits before
Trinity Masters,
and damage pro-
nounced for.

1843.
19th July.
**THE ANNE AND
JANE.**

board tack, whereas the owners of the Anne and Jane say that it was blowing from the west. There is also a still more important difference, so far as I can comprehend it, as to the measures adopted by the masters of the two vessels. The persons on board the Anne and Jane say that when the Jeune Flavie was first discovered, they ported their helm, and immediately flew off three points, and that the collision took place in consequence of the Jeune Flavie having also altered her course. This statement is contradicted by the Jeune Flavie, and it is directly averred that they starboarded the helm, and that her course was never altered in the slightest degree. It appears to me, therefore, that the main facts which you will have to determine is, first, from what quarter you believe that the wind was blowing at the time of the collision ; and secondly, whether the measure of putting the helm to port, and going off three points, was a proper measure to have been adopted on the part of the Anne and Jane. If it were proper, the Anne and Jane would not be responsible for the damage ; if, on the other hand, the measure was erroneous in point of seamanship, she would in that case be responsible. With regard to the alleged intoxication of the crew of the Jeune Flavie, the charge in question must, I think, be altogether dismissed from consideration ; and I am clearly of opinion, that there is nothing to show improper conduct, arising from any such cause, on the part of the crew of the Jeune Flavie. I do not think it necessary to trouble you with any other part of the case. You will have the kindness to consider the points to which I have directed your attention, and give me the benefit of your opinion with reference

to this collision, which was attended with the melancholy loss, not only of the vessel proceeding in the cause, but, what is more important, the loss of a human being, as to whether the conduct of the Anne and Jane was that which ought to have been pursued under the circumstances of the case, and also whether any blame was attributable to the other vessel.

The Trinity Masters were of opinion that the fact of the Anne and Jane going off three points, as soon as her helm was put up, proved that she was going free at the time ; that the sloop was on the starboard tack, and all the men on deck, because they had recently reefed the mainsail. They were also of opinion, that if the schooner had kept her course, the collision would not have occurred ; that the damage was occasioned by her so altering her course, and that no blame was imputable to the Jeune Flavie.

Damage pronounced for, with costs.

1843.
13th July.
THE ANNE AND
JANE.

HIGHLANDER. RENDLES.

5th May.

Motion.

THE affidavit to lead the motion in this case set forth that, "By indenture bearing date, 9th of October, 1840, A. S., the lawful owner of the ship, assigned to W. R. 32-64th parts of the said vessel, subject to a right of redemption upon payment of the sum of £555, with lawful interest ; and also with a power to the said W. R. to sell and dispose of the said 32-64th parts in case the said

A mortgagee is not entitled to arrest a vessel for the purpose of enforcing bail for her safe return to this country.

Motion, on behalf of a mortgagee, for a warrant of arrest, refused under

1843.
5th May.
THE HIGHLANDER.
the circumstances of the case.

sum was not paid within the times mentioned in indenture for repayment thereof ; that two several sums of £163 and £198, part of the said sum £555 and interest, secured by the indenture, were not paid at the time specified, and now remain justly due and owing, and a further sum of £2 being the remainder of the said sum of £555 interest, will also shortly be payable ; that application has been made repeatedly to the said A for payment, but without effect ; that the said ship is about to proceed to sea on a foreign voyage without the consent or approbation of the appearance W. R., and without giving the said shipowner any security for his property or interest in the said vessel ; and that the aid and process of Court is required to restrain the said ship from proceeding on her said intended voyage until such security shall be given."

Under the circumstances stated in the affidavit Addams moved the Court to decree a warrant of arrest at the suit of the mortgagee, until bail for the safe return of the vessel should be given ; the Court considering that there was no precedent for the application, and that it had no jurisdiction in the premises, declined to grant the motion.

Motion rejected.

12th May.

THE SARAH JANE.

Owners of vessels, which have received salvage assistance, cannot safely enter into a settlement of a salvage compensation,

IN this case, the vessel Sarah Jane, whilst on a voyage from Cuba to the port of London, sprung a leak, which the crew were unable to keep under and an American vessel, bound to New Brunswick having hove in sight, the master and crew of

Sarah Jane abandoned the ship, and went on board the American vessel. On the following morning, they fell in with the Saucy Lass, bound to London, on board whereof they immediately embarked, and on the evening of the same day they again fell in with their own vessel, the Sarah Jane. The mate and three of the crew of the Sarah Jane, and the mate and one seaman of the Saucy Lass volunteered to go on board and take her into a port of safety. The two vessels then parted, and the six men, aided by some experienced pilots whom they had fallen in with, succeeded, after considerable difficulty, in bringing the Sarah Jane in safety into the harbour of St. Mary, in the Scilly Isles. The owner of the Sarah Jane being informed that his vessel had been taken into the Scilly Isles, immediately dispatched an agent to that place, where, upon his arrival, he found Captain Love, the master and part owner of the Saucy Lass, and Messrs. N. and A., the sole remaining owners of that vessel.

An agreement was then made between the agent of the owner of the Sarah Jane and the owners and the mate of the Saucy Lass, to pay them £800 in lieu of all demands for salvage; and in the presence of all the owners, the master and the mate of the Saucy Lass, the sum of £800 was paid into the hands of the master, who gave a receipt for himself, mate, crew, owners, and all others interested in the Saucy Lass, and this receipt was also signed by —, the mate.

Four of the crew of the Saucy Lass, being all the seamen who remained on board their own vessel, and who did not personally render any service to the Sarah Jane, being dissatisfied with

1848.
12th May.

THE SARAH JANE.

which includes the interests of all persons concerned in the salvage, without procuring a general release in the first instance.

Salvage of £800 paid to the master of a salving vessel, under an agreement between the owners and master of the salving vessel and the owners of the vessel salved.

Action brought by some of the crew of the salving vessel, who were dissatisfied with the distribution of the £800 so paid.

Defence of the owners of the vessel salvaged: — that the salvage remuneration had been settled under agreement, and that the master of the salving vessel, who received the money and signed the receipt, was a part owner, and that the other owners were also present at and assenting to the settlement in question, overruled by the Court.

1843.
12th May.
THE SARAH
JANE.

the apportionment of the £800, entered an action for salvage in this cause. The action was also entered on behalf of Lee Pope, the mariner who had gone on board the brig with the mate of the Saucy Lass, and who, it appeared, had been paid the sum of £38 8s. 6d. as his share of the salvage.

The act on petition, after setting forth in detail the facts of the case as stated above, further alleged, on behalf of the salvors, that the master of the Saucy Lass proceeded to Scilly, leaving his crew with the schooner at Liverpool, for the purpose of arranging with the owners of the brig the amount of remuneration, but without any authority from the crew of the schooner to act for them; that the arrangement with the owners of the Sarah Jane was entirely without the privity or consent of the said crew; that out of the £800, S. H., one of the salvors, had been only offered for his share the sum of £3 10s., which he refused to accept; that J. P., another of the salvors, had made application to the owners of the Saucy Lass for a share of the said salvage, but they refused to give him any share whatever; that Lee Pope, another of the salvors, remained on board the brig for about three weeks after she arrived at Scilly, and was then informed by the mate of the schooner that his (the said L. P.'s) share of the salvage was £50; and a few days afterwards the master of the Saucy Lass paid him £38 8s. 6d., having paid him £1 before, and told him that the balance of the said £50 was deducted for expenses; that he (the said L. P.) received the said £38 8s. 6d. in the belief that the salvage had been legally settled and apportioned; that the said L. P. was never consulted about the settlement of the said salvage, nor did he authorize

any person to act therein for him or on his behalf; that he (the said L. P.) has only been paid his wages as a seaman belonging to the Saucy Lass up to the day of his going on board the brig, and that on leaving her he had to pay his own expenses, and the expenses of his journey from Scilly home to Dartmouth.

The answer of the owners merely pleaded the payment of the salvage remuneration under the agreement made at St. Mary's, and that J. L., who signed the receipt as master, was also part owner of the Saucy Lass, and that the other owners were present at and assenting to the reference and award aforesaid.

For the owners of the Sarah Jane, *Addams* and *Bayford*.

Haggard and Twiss, contrà.

JUDGMENT—*Dr. Lushington.*

It would, I conceive, be impossible to lay down any general rule, with respect to questions of this description, which might not, if applied to all cases and circumstances, be productive of much inconvenience and injustice. If I were to hold that masters and owners possessed a general power to act for the rest of the crew, it is obvious, from past experience of the manner in which mariners have been sometimes dealt with, that they would often be deprived of that reward to which they are justly entitled. On the other hand, I feel that an injury might be inflicted upon the owners, if it was laid down as a rule of universal application, that in no case whatever neither the master nor the owner can act on behalf of the crew. In giving

1843.
12th May.
THE SARAH
JANE.

1843.
12th May.

THE SARAH
JANE.

my decision in this case, I will, in the first instance, shortly advert to some of the facts before I proceed to the consideration of the principles which are applicable to the particular circumstances of the case itself. The Sarah Jane was a derelict, and she was saved by the assistance of the Saucy Lass. The persons who succeeded in conducting the vessel into a port of safety were the mate and three of the crew of the Sarah Jane, and the mate and one seaman of the Saucy Lass; and only one of these, the seaman Lee Pope, is a party to the present proceedings. The suit for salvage, therefore, is brought principally by persons who were not actively employed in the performance of the salvage service. The defence to the suit is, that the sum of £800 has been paid, and that it has been received without any objection from the owners, the master, the mate who went on board the Sarah Jane, or any other persons, with the exception of the promoters of these proceedings. It has also been contended that the suit has been instituted not for the purpose of disputing the amount of the compensation which has been paid by the owners of the Sarah Jane, but with a view of enforcing a different distribution from that which is proposed to be made by the owners and the master to the seamen themselves.

Now I must first consider in what situation the persons now suing ought to stand, before I determine whether the facts which I have stated form a valid defence to the action. It is not attempted to deny that they are salvors, although they were not personally engaged in effecting the rescue of the Sarah Jane. Had such a proposition been attempted, it could not have been contended for with

effect, in the face of the acknowledged practice of the Court; because it has been the rule of this Court, from time immemorial, to allow persons who remain on board a salving ship, to be considered as co-salvors, although the Court has repeatedly made a distinction in favour of those persons who actually have incurred the difficulty and peril of the salvage enterprise. Indeed, the principle upon which they are admitted is as old as holy writ; for it is there stated, that they who continued in their tents, divided the spoil with their brethren. *Prima facie*, then, the parties suing have an interest which entitles them to institute the present suit; and in order to debar them, they must be barred by some circumstances which have that legal effect. What are the circumstances which have been relied on by the counsel for the owners of the Sarah Jane? They are the following, viz., that the salvage reward has been *bona fide* paid, and has been received by Joseph Love, the master of the Saucy Lass, professing to act on behalf of himself and the owners, mate, and crew of that vessel, and of all other persons interested in the transaction in question. A receipt for the money has been given to this effect; but the validity of this receipt is denied, upon the ground that he had no authority to give such receipt without the consent of the whole of the crew. The question, therefore, arises, whether the master was authorized to act for the crew, without their consent being directly or indirectly first given. It is unnecessary, I think, to revert to the principles which I examined in the case of the Britain (*a*), and in other cases, for the purpose of

1843.
12th May.
THE SARAH
JANE.

(a) Robinson, jun., Admiralty Reports, Vol. I. p. 41.

1843.
12th May.
THE SARAH
JANE.

showing that, in all ordinary cases of salvage, neither the owners nor the master have a power of binding the crew, without their previous consent. This point has not been argued in the present instance, and I therefore feel that it is unnecessary for me to travel further into the disquisition. There is, however, another point which has been strongly urged, and to which I must now more immediately address myself, viz., that acts done by a person presuming to act as an agent, without previous authority, may become valid by the subsequent recognition of the individual whom such agent professes to represent; and this recognition may be effected either by express assent, or by some act on the part of the individual represented which necessarily carries with it the inference of his approbation and consent. This principle, it has been contended, directly applies to the circumstances of the present case, and under its application the promoters of this suit are conclusively estopped from carrying on the proceedings: Now, with regard to Lee Pope, one of the party proceeding, I am of opinion that the principle contended for does certainly apply. His case, I think, stands essentially distinguished from that of the others, and for the following reason: that, according to his own statement, he remained on board the brig after her arrival at Scilly; that he was then informed by the mate that the sum of £800 had been received, that his share was £50, and a few days after, the master paid him £38 8s. 6d., having deducted certain expenses. It is averred, on his behalf, that he received this money under a misapprehension on his part, that the salvage had been legally settled, and that he was bound to whatever had been done.

Looking to the *res gestae* of the case, I must confess that I am not inclined to place much reliance upon this averment. In the first place, I apprehend, the receipt of the money was *prima facie* a complete confirmation of the arrangement which had been effected between the owners of the two vessels and the master of the Saucy Lass. He could only apply for the share of the money, under a conviction that he was legally entitled so to do; and having so applied and received it, he has, to all intents and purposes, ratified the arrangement in question.

As against third parties, I am most clearly of opinion that he has stopped himself, by his own acts, from instituting a suit of this kind, and I am therefore bound to hold that he is legally precluded from proceeding further in the cause.

With respect to the other persons, they stand in a somewhat different predicament. It is stated that Hearne made an application for his share of the salvage, and that the sum of £3 10s. was offered to him, but he refused to accept it, because he thought it insufficient. Stone, another of the salvors, it appears, also made a similar application, which was rejected altogether. It does not appear whether any application was made on behalf of the two remaining salvors. It has been contended, that such an application on the part of the parties making it, is an estoppel against their right of carrying on the present suit. I cannot accede to this proposition, because I think that if they had otherwise a right of proceeding in this action, it would be contrary to all principles of equity and justice to hold with too much severity against a mariner, that the mere fact of making application to the owners,

1843.
12th May.
THE SARAH
JANE.

1843.
12th May.
THE SARAH
JANE.

in the first instance, should bar him from the legal prosecution of his redress in this Court. It has been further contended, on behalf of the owners of the Sarah Jane, as an objection to the suit, that it is instituted by the promoters of it, not for the purpose of disputing the amount of the salvage which has been paid, but in order to enforce a different distribution of it. If my memory does not deceive me, the same argument was urged in the case of the Britain, and I am still of opinion, as I was in that case, that the objection in question is not of any importance whatever. I have felt some anxiety, in considering this case, to discover whether the recent Act of Parliament would enable me to apply the provisions of the statute to the circumstances of the case, because, as it appears to me, the real justice of the case would be, to call upon the owners of the Saucy Lass to bring in the money which they have received, and to compel them to a fair and just distribution. With this view, I have carefully examined the statute, 3 & 4 Vict. c. 65, and I regret to say that, in my construction of the Act, the true meaning of the statute is, that application must be made for a distribution within fourteen days after making the award, or the actual payment of the money. I have, therefore, I regret, no means of affording assistance to the parties under the Act of Parliament. Upon the whole, then, I must pronounce that the legal right of the seamen to sue, with the exception of Pope, is not affected by any of the circumstances of the case ; and I am further of opinion, that I have no discretion whatever to interpose any obstacle to their exercise of this right. I regret much the hardship that will be experienced by the owners of the Sarah Jane, in

being thus called upon a second time to pay a salvage remuneration. At the same time, I hope it will be a warning, in future cases, that owners cannot safely enter into a compromise of this description, which includes the interests of all persons that have rendered service to their vessel, without procuring a release from all parties interested, or incurring a risk of the consequences. In the present instance, the owners of the Sarah Jane have chosen to encounter the risk of these consequences, and these consequences they must bear; for I cannot, as a matter of indulgence to them, inflict legal hardship upon others.

Upon the 26th of May, the Court awarded £50 each to Hearne and Stone, and £20 each to Diamond and Airs, who were apprentices, with the costs.

1843.
12th May.
THE SARAH
JANE.

THE RELIANCE. GREEN.

26th May.

THIS was a question as to the admissibility of a summary petition in a suit for wages, promoted by the widow and administratrix of one of the seamen of the Reliance, an East Indiaman, wrecked on the French coast, in the month of November last.

The facts of the case are sufficiently noticed in the judgment of the Court.

In support of the petition, *Haggard* submitted—

That a similar petition had been held admissible in the case of the Neptune, and the facts of the case sufficiently brought it within the principle adopted by Lord Stowell in deciding the case of the Neptune. That the decision of Lord Stowell

Where any portions of a wrecked vessel have been recovered, the mariners are entitled to sue against the proceeds for their wages, although no freight has been earned; and their title is not divested by the circumstance that the portions of the ship which have been preserved, were preserved not by the exertions of the crew, but by third parties. A summary

1843.
26th May.
THE RELIANCE.
petition, in a suit
for wages, ad-
mitted on behalf
of the widow
and adminis-
tratrix of a de-
ceased seaman,
the whole of the
crew, with the
exception of one
man, having
been lost.

had never been reversed; on the contrary, the principles which it laid down had been directly confirmed by Lord Lyndhurst, in the case of *Jesse v. Roy*.

Addams, contrà—

That there was an important distinction between this case and the case of the *Neptune*, inasmuch as, in the case of the *Neptune*, portions of the vessel and of the cargo were saved by the exertions of the crew. This important ingredient was wanting in the present case.

Per Curiam.

The present question arises upon the admissibility of this summary petition. The facts of the case, as far as they are necessary to be stated, are as follows:—The vessel sailed from this country for the East Indies in June, 1841. She arrived at Bombay, and subsequently proceeded to Whampoa and China. The wages of the seamen were paid up to the time of the vessel leaving China. The homeward voyage was commenced in March, 1842, and in the progress of that voyage the ship was unfortunately lost upon the French coast, in the month of November last. No freight was earned on the homeward voyage, but a part of the hull of the ship, and some of the stores and materials, were saved; but it is not alleged in the petition that they were saved by the exertions of the crew. The widow of one of the mariners now sues for the wages due to her deceased husband on the homeward voyage; and in support of her act on petition, the Court has been referred to the decision of Lord Stowell in the case of the *Neptune*, reported in 1st Haggard, p. 227.

It has been observed by the learned counsel for the owners, that a material difference exists between the circumstances of this case and the case of the Neptune, inasmuch as, in the case of the Neptune, a part of the ship was preserved by the exertions of the mariners ; but in the present case, the whole of the crew, with the exception of one man, were unfortunately lost, and the salvage of the portions of the vessel which have been preserved was effected by the exertions of other parties. This fact undoubtedly furnishes a distinction between the two cases, which in many other particulars very closely resemble each other ; and the question which I have now to determine is, whether this circumstance forms such a distinction as should lead me to reject this summary petition.

If the circumstances of the two cases had been precisely similar, I should have held myself concluded by the decision of Lord Stowell, in the case of the Neptune, not only as being the decision of one of the most able judges who ever sat in this chair, but as being conformable to all principles of law and equity. Moreover, the judgment in that case was pronounced in 1824, and came under the knowledge of Lord Tenterden in his last edition of his work on Shipping, and it has also been confirmed by Lord Lyndhurst in the judgment in the Court of Exchequer cited by Dr. Haggard.

Now, what was the principle upon which Lord Stowell decided the case of the Neptune ? The ground upon which his decision in that case was founded is this,—that the mariners were entitled to their wages if they had performed their duty to the utmost of their power ; or, to use Lord Stowell's

1843.
26th May.
THE RELIANCE.

1848.
26th May.
THE RELIANCE.

own words, that "they were entitled to cling to the last plank in satisfaction of their wages." I have most carefully considered the judgment in that case before I came into Court, and I am satisfied in my own mind, that, although in the course of his judgment he discusses at considerable length the laws and usages of other countries, as to seamen being salvors, he does not form his ultimate decision upon that reasoning. In so doing, he was, I conceive, perfectly right. Let us for a moment adopt the principle of salvage in considering a case of this description, bearing in mind that seamen are remunerated by fixed wages. What would be its effect? If the mariners were to be considered as entitled to their wages, in a case of this nature, as salvors, it would be repugnant to every principle upon which salvage remuneration is awarded. The remuneration of salvors is proportioned according to the extent of the services rendered, the danger to which they are exposed, and the exertions they are compelled to use. If these considerations were applied to cases of wages, the result would be, in some instances, to give the seamen more than they were justly entitled to; in others, to deprive them of a fair compensation.

It is quite clear to my mind, that Lord Stowell did not form his judgment upon any such ground. To look further into the principle, if the title to wages is grounded upon the doctrine of salvage services performed by the mariners, there might be cases when the measures, tending to the ultimate preservation of the ship and cargo, might be commenced by the united exertions of the whole of the crew, and a moiety of them might be drowned before those measures were effected. According

to the argument advanced against the admission of this petition, those who lost their lives would be deprived of any share in the remuneration ;—in other words, if a seaman died by the act of God, in the actual performance of his duty, according to the doctrine contended for, he would be deprived of his share of the reward. The injustice of such a doctrine is apparent. It is unnecessary to pursue the subject further, because, as I have already observed, Lord Stowell, in deciding the case of the *Neptune*, did not found his judgment upon any such principle. The ground upon which he introduced the principle of salvage, in delivering his judgment in that case, was, that it was impossible to conceive a case where the materials of the vessel had come ashore, and been collected by the labour of the crew, in which they would not be entitled to benefit by their exertions.

In introducing the question, with his usual foresight and clearness, he says, “ On all views of the relative justice between the parties, there can be no doubt that the rule of wages has the advantage upon the clearest ground ; but take it upon the most naked principles of law applying to it, the contract covers the whole ship, one part as well as another, with the mariners’ lien. A part separated by a storm is not disengaged by that accident from the lien. If it be recovered, it is recovered as a part of the primitive pledge mortgaged to the mariner. Again, when does the authority of the master cease ? His authority certainly does not merge in the misfortune, nor are the seamen at liberty, without staying a reasonable time for the recovery of parts of the ship and cargo, (if there be any prospect in his judgment of such recovery,) imme-

1843.
26th May.
THE RELIANCE.

*1843.
26th May.
THE RELIANCE.*

dately to disperse themselves over the country on whose shores they have encountered the mischance, without some discharge from him."

Being clearly of opinion that the case of the Neptune is applicable to this case, I must hold that, if the mariner had survived, he would have been entitled to his wages ; and it is not disputed that the administratrix, the party bringing this suit, stands in the same position as the seaman if alive would have done. I must therefore admit the summary petition.

7th June.

*Award and ap-
portionment de-
creed by the
Court in a case
of derelict.*

THE CAROLINE. DERELICT.

IN this case, the Caroline, with a valuable cargo of general merchandize, whilst on her voyage from Liverpool to the Cape of Good Hope, struck upon a sand to the east of Wicklow Head, upon the 10th of January, when the master and crew got into the jolly boat and abandoned her in a sinking state.

Upon the following morning, the vessel was discovered drifting in the Irish Channel by the Emily, a small schooner of seventy-four tons, with a crew of six persons, bound from Liverpool to Terceira. The master of the Emily placed three of his men on board the derelict, and accompanied her in the Emily to Holyhead. When boarded by the salvors, the hatches of the Caroline were open, the tiller was loose, the lashing of the binnacle was cut, and the binnacle was lying in the gangway, and between two and three feet of water were in the hold.

The value of the ship and cargo was £15000, and

the Court allotted £1800 to the salvors, and decreed the following distribution :—£600 to the owners of the Caroline, as a compensation for the risk encountered by their vessel in being deprived of the proper complement of hands, and also for their loss of the freight, which was undertaken to be provided for the Emily homeward from Terceira, the prosecution of the voyage being prevented by the rendering of the salvage service ; £400 to the master ; £250 to the mate ; and the remainder amongst the four seamen.

1848.
7th June.
THE CAROLINE.

THE TWO SISTERS. DAVISON.

9th June.

THIS was a cause of subtraction of wages, promoted by John Hutton, who served as second mate on board the vessel in a voyage from Glasgow to Jamaica and back.

A further action was entered at the suit of James Grant, a seaman, and James Thomas, the steward, on board the same brig, in the sum of £150 ; and it was agreed between the proctors in the respective suits that the judgment in this case should be decisive upon both the issues. The proceedings were by plea and proof (*a*).

Suit for wages.
— Defence of
the owners, that
the wages had
been forfeited
by the mariner's
desertion, not
sustained.

Construction
of the Act 5 & 6
W. IV.

(*a*) On the fourth session, Hilary Term, 10th February, a summary petition, consisting of ten articles, was brought in on behalf of the plaintiff, pleading :—

1st. That whilst the vessel was lying at the Port of Glasgow, J. H. was hired to serve as second mate on board the brig, at the rate of wages of £3 per month. That on the 2nd of February, 1842, he signed the ship's articles, and proceeded with the ship to Jamaica, where she arrived on the 28th of April, 1842.

2nd. That the vessel having discharged part of her cargo

1843.
9th June.

THE TWO
SISTERS.

In support of the claim, *Robinson* submitted—
That the mariner, having served on board the vessel in her voyage to Jamaica and back, was

at Jamaica, and taken in ballast, sailed from Jamaica on the 19th of May, and arrived at Belize on the 28th of said month. That on the 19th of August, 1842, having discharged the remainder of her cargo, and taken on board a fresh cargo of logwood, &c., &c., she again sailed on her homeward voyage, and arrived at Cork on the 13th of November following.

3rd. That on the arrival of the ship at Cork, orders were received by the master to proceed with her to London. That on the 22nd of the said month, the said ship set sail on said voyage to London, and having sustained considerable damage by stress of weather, in the progress of the said voyage, she bore up for Swansea, and, on the 27th of November, came to an anchor inside Swansea Light, waiting for sufficient water to enter the harbour, until the 29th of the said month of November. That on the said day, with the assistance of a steam-boat, she was enabled to enter the said harbour, and in the afternoon of the said day was moored in safety alongside the quay of the town of Swansea.

4th. That on the following day carpenters from on shore were received on board by the master, and were employed in clearing away the wreck and preparing for the requisite repairs, in which service the said J. H., as well as the rest of the crew, assisted. That at between five and six o'clock, P.M., the master being at that time on shore, and the brig in charge of J. B., the chief mate, J. H., J. G., and J. T., severally went on shore, by permission of the chief mate, with injunctions to return in time for work next morning; that in consequence of such permission, the several parties remained on shore all night.

5th. That on following day, J. H. returned on board said ship in company with J. T., and found there J. G., who had returned on board a few minutes previously, when said J. H., not seeing the chief mate, reported himself to the master, who was then walking the deck, and at the same time asked said master what directions he should give for the employment of the crew, at the same time expressing himself as willing, in the absence of the chief mate, to direct or perform any duty which might be required of him; that said master refused to appoint

prima facie entitled to his wages, and the *onus probandi* lay with the owners who sought to deprive

him any office or duty on board the said brig, saying, I don't know you—you have taken your own discharge, you may go ashore, or words to that effect; that a similar answer was returned to J. G. and J. T., and in consequence of the refusal of the master to receive and employ them on board, the said parties returned on shore; that in course of that day, and also on the day following, whilst the brig remained moored alongside the quay, J. H. again went on board and applied to the master, offering to resume his duty, but without effect; said master, at such time, also refusing to pay him his wages, or to make out his discharge, or to allot him the usual allowance of the ship's provisions, or permit him to cook his own provisions or to sleep on board.

6th. That on the evening of the next day, the ship was removed to the opposite side of the river, to a dry dock or slip, for the purpose of completing the necessary repairs; that in the course of the day J. D., the master, met with an accident, and having broken his leg was incapacitated from doing his duty on board, and was removed on shore; that T. D., the sole owner of the brig, therefore, took the management of the ship's affairs into his own hands, and J. H., the plaintiff, doth expressly allege that during such time, and until the 13th of said month of December, when he finally quitted Swansea, the said J. H. every day, or very frequently, went on board the brig and applied to said T. D., or whosoever was in command, to be reinstated in the performance of his duty, or to be paid the wages justly due to him, both of which requests were peremptorily refused by said T. D. or other in command, who told said J. H. that he knew nothing about him, and ordered him to quit the brig and go on shore.

7th. That finding his applications wholly ineffectual, said J. H., on or about the 13th of December, quitted Swansea in company with said J. G. and J. T., and proceeded on foot to London.

8th. That the ship having subsequently arrived in the port of London, to wit, on or about the 17th of January, 1843, the said J. H. upon her arrival applied for and obtained the remainder of his clothes and effects, which had been detained on board, but that he was again refused the payment of his wages and his discharge from the service of the said brig.

1843.
9th June.

THE TWO
SISTERS.

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

him of his claim; that the defence to the action was grounded upon a charge of desertion, and by

9th. That said J. H. at all times, during his continuance on board in the service of the said brig, well and truly performed his duty as second mate, &c., &c.

10th. The usual concluding article.

This summary petition was admitted without opposition, and on the 21st of February, *Clarkson* brought in an allegation, which was admitted, on behalf of the owners.

This allegation pleaded:—

1st. In contradiction of the 3rd article—That it was untruly pleaded in the 3rd article of the summary petition, that the ship was safely moored alongside the quay of Swansea Town, in the afternoon of the 29th of November. On the contrary, that the pier or quay, off which the said vessel was moored, and where she continued till the 2nd of December following, before which time she could not be taken in safety up the harbour, owing to the neap tides, was in the then state of the weather a place of considerable danger from the heavy sea rolling into that part of the harbour, &c.

2nd. In contradiction of the 4th article—That J. D., the master, went on shore on the 29th of December, to arrange for getting the vessel on the slip for the purpose of her repairs; that prior to his going on shore, he gave strict injunctions that none of the crew, on any account whatever, should go on shore during his absence, owing to the dangerous position of the vessel; that notwithstanding the premises, at about half-past twelve, p.m., J. T., the steward, and at four o'clock the said J. H., the second mate, and T. G., the seaman, and at half-past seven, H. B., the chief mate, respectively went on shore, leaving the vessel in a situation of great peril, as she was found to be by the said master, on his going on board in the evening to see that all was right, &c.

3rd. That on the following day, 1st of December, J. G. came on board and demanded his wages and discharge, which said master refused to give him, and ordered him to resume his duty, to which the said J. G. replied, "he would be d—d if he would," or to that effect, and took himself on shore again; but that neither T. H. nor J. T. ever came or attempted to come on board the said vessel, &c., &c.

4th. That early in the morning of the 2nd of December,

the terms of the 4th article of the owner's plea, the defence was further confined to desertion under the

T. D., the owner of the said vessel, arrived by the mail at Swansea, at which place it was blowing a strong gale of wind, and the sea was rolling in so heavily, that the moorings of the said vessel suddenly giving way, she was placed in great peril; that the master, however, and such of the crew as were still on board, fortunately succeeded in getting her removed, though not until the said vessel had received very considerable damage by having her timber heads, covering boards, and paint streak torn away; that on the evening of the said day, the vessel was taken up the harbour, and for the first time placed in safety; that the said J. H. and his shipmate continuing absent from the said vessel during that day also, (although both on that day and the day previous provisions had been cooked for them,) they were treated as deserters by the said master, and the circumstances attending their desertion were duly entered in the log, pursuant to the statute 5 & 6 W. IV. c. 19. s. 9., &c., &c.

5th. That the said J. H. and J. T. for the first time returned to the said ship about six days after, and whilst she was on the slip undergoing her repairs, but that the said T. D., the owner, then on board, and in charge of the ship, refused to receive them, expressly telling them that they were deserters, and that both their wages and clothes and other effects on board were forfeited; that the said J. H. and some of the others got on board the said vessel early on the evening of the 12th of December, and, unknown either to the master or the owner, secretly took away some of their clothes, &c., &c.

6th. In contradiction of the 8th article, pleads the taking out a warrant from the Thames Police Office, against the owner, by J. H., upon the ship's arrival in London, but that the magistrate refused to make any order for the payment of the wages schedule; and that the said owner, thereby considering the said claim for wages at an end, voluntarily and purely out of charity gave up to the said J. H. the residue of his clothes.

7th. In contradiction of the 9th article, denies that the said J. H. conducted himself with propriety, and discharged his duty faithfully whilst on board the brig, for that on two occasions he absented himself from the said vessel, viz., once for two days, whilst the ship was at Belize, and a second time, for four days, whilst she was at Cork, &c., &c.

8th. Concluding article.

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

statute. The question, therefore, was narrowed to the issue whether the owners had brought their defence within the provisions of the Act of Parliament. That looking to the decision in the Court of Exchequer, in the case of *M'Donald v. Joplin*, it might be questioned whether the statute 5 & 6 W IV. applied at all to a case of the present description. Assuming that it did apply, it was clear that the facts set up by the owner in his allegation did not bring the defence within the provisions of the 9th section of the Act which had been relied on. That the 9th section expressly defined a desertion under the statute to be an absence from the ship not only without leave, but under circumstances plainly denoting an intention not to return; and the definition could not in fairness be applied to the circumstances of the case, inasmuch as it was clear that the mariner returned on board on the following morning, and would have continued his services, but was told by the master that he knew nothing about him, and that he had taken his discharge on the previous evening.

That as regarded the evidence in the cause which was more than usually conflicting, the balance of credibility was decidedly in favour of the plaintiff. The principal testimony for the defence consisting of three boys of nineteen, and of the owner of the vessel himself, who might have been objected to *in limine* upon the ground of interest had it been deemed of sufficient importance to do so. On the other hand, the evidence in support of the mariner's claim was confirmed by the testimony of an adverse witness, Packhorwood and also still more strongly by the probabilities of the case itself, inasmuch as it was not likely

the mariner would wilfully incur the forfeiture of his wages at the very last moment, by deserting the ship, when almost within the port of her discharge.

Lastly, that even if the mariner had wilfully abandoned the ship *sine animo revertendi*, in the present instance, the charge, being laid under the statute, was not brought home in such a shape as would entail the forfeiture of the entire wages. That, in order to work such an effect, the statute requires that the circumstances attending the desertion should be noticed in the log-book at the time, and certified by the signature of the master and the mate, or some other credible witness; and this form had not been complied with.

Upon the ground, therefore, of a deficiency of *legal proof*, the defence of the owners could not be sustained, and the mariner, in failure of such proof, was entitled to his wages.

Addams, contrà.—

That the evidence in the case was undoubtedly of a most conflicting character; at the same time, he denied that the balance of credibility preponderated in favour of the party promoting the suit. That two of the witnesses in support of the mariner's claim, Grant and Thomas, were *in eodem delicto* with the plaintiff, and were moreover themselves embarked in a similar suit, the result of which was dependent upon the issue of the present action. With respect to the third witness, Kift, the publican, he had admitted, in his answers to the interrogatories, that Hulton, Grant, and Thomas, were in his debt, and that he did not believe that they have any means of paying him save out of the

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

1848.

9th June.

THE TWO
SISTERS.

wages which they have earned, or may hereafter earn. That the whole of the plaintiff's witnesses, therefore, had a kind of contingent interest in the result of the suit, which rendered their testimony open to very considerable exception. That on the part of the owners, independent of the evidence of the three seamen of the Two Sisters, there was the testimony of the custom-house officer, a witness wholly disinterested, and without impeachment, and his evidence established, beyond dispute, that Hulton was absent from the vessel for two consecutive nights, without leave; and this fact, coupled with the *res gestæ* of the case, was sufficient to bring the defence within the words of the statute: "for any period, however short, under circumstances denoting an intention not to return." That even if the Court should be disposed to adopt the objection which had been raised, that the offence was not made out under the 9th section of the Act 5 & 6 W. IV., the owners were still entitled to the forfeiture of the mariner's wages, under the general maritime law, which had not been abrogated by the statute. This point had been distinctly laid down by the Court, in the case of the Westmoreland (*a*). That the alleged desertion was not confined to a charge of desertion under the statute, as had been suggested. The offence was charged in sufficiently comprehensive terms, in the owner's plea, to include it under the general law, and, by that law, an abandonment of a vessel, even in the port of discharge, without leave, was a desertion entailing the forfeiture of wages. That this penalty would still more justly

(*a*) 1 A. R. Robinson, Jun., 221.

attach, in the present case, because the vessel was not only in *itinere* at the time, but, from the damage she had sustained, was, moreover, in especial need of the assistance and services of the crew.

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

Robinson, in reply—

That the case of the Westmoreland was distinguishable from this case in this respect, that no attempt was made in the pleadings, in that case, to charge the offence under the statute 5 & 6 W. IV. The statute, in the case of the Westmoreland, was merely pleaded, to the effect that the ship's articles had been signed, in compliance with the statute in question. That, as regarded the present case, it was immaterial whether the seaman's claim was to be decided by the statute, or by the general law; because it was equally clear, in either case, that the defence of the owner was altogether deficient in legal proof that there had been any abandonment of the ship *sine animo revertendi*. That, both under the general and the statute law, such an abandonment ought to be proved, in order to constitute a desertion entailing a forfeiture of the wages. That the utmost offence which the facts of the case established against the seaman, was an absence without leave; and this offence was not brought home in such a shape as the 7th section of the Act required, in order to secure the penalties awarded by that section. That if it was intended to deal with the case under the general law, the total desertion not being established, the mariner was entitled to the whole of his wages, under the authority of the decision in the case of the Blake.

JUDGMENT—*Dr. Lushington*.

This suit is brought by John Hulton, who served

1843.
9th June.
The Two
Sisters.

as second mate on board this vessel, the Two Sisters, on a voyage from Glasgow to Jamaica and other places, and back to this country. The vessel arrived at Cork, on her homeward voyage, where the master received directions from the owner to proceed to London. Upon the 22nd of November last, she sailed from Cork for London, but, in the course of her voyage, being much damaged by stress of weather, she was compelled to put into Swansea. Up to this period, John Hulton continued to serve on board, and having performed his duties, which is not denied to this extent, *prima facie*, he is entitled to his wages. The payment of these wages is resisted by the owner, upon the ground of desertion, and the *onus probandi* lies upon the owner. The issue, therefore, which I have to determine is, whether a desertion, in the legal acceptance of the word, and carrying with it a forfeiture of his wages, has been proved against the mariner in this cause.

I will now consider, in the first place, the facts which are alleged on the part of the owner, and the evidence which he has produced in support of them. And I may here observe generally, with respect to the evidence before the Court, that it is extremely deficient in precision, especially in regard to dates, and upon this account is most unsatisfactory. (The learned judge here recapitulated the contents of the several articles of the responsive allegation, and proceeded to observe)—The averments in this allegation, though extended in various articles, in substance amount to this: that John Hulton quitted the vessel on the 29th of November, and did not return at all for nine or ten consecutive days. The first question, therefore, is,

assuming the fact as pleaded to be true, does this fact constitute desertion in the legal acceptation of the word? In considering this point, I must consider it, in the first instance, with reference to the recent Act of Parliament, 5 & 6 W. IV., because, as has been observed in the argument, the statute has been specifically pleaded in the fourth article of the allegation, and the entry in the log purports to have been made in pursuance of the provision contained in the ninth section of the statute.

Since the case was argued, I have referred to the case of *M'Donald v. Joplin*, and the decision in that case, it appears to me, is at once decisive upon the point in question, and for this reason, viz., that the Court of Exchequer was of opinion, in that case, that the ninth section of the Act solely applied to cases of desertion when the ship was in foreign ports, and before her arrival at the port of discharge. Baron Parke, in putting a question to counsel, speaks of "parts beyond seas;" and the vessel in this case, it is manifest, was not in parts beyond seas, neither was she in the port of delivery. In a judgment deemed of so much importance, the question must have been carefully considered, and the judgment of the Court of Exchequer, being a decision upon the construction of an Act of Parliament, would be binding upon this Court, even if I had been disposed to take a different view of the statute; but my opinion coincides with that of the Court of Exchequer. The words of Lord Abinger, in delivering the opinion of the Court of Exchequer, were these: "The 9th section may be considered as applying to the case of the desertion of a ship whilst in foreign parts, and before her arrival at her port of delivery." In effect, there-

1843.
9th June.
The Two
Sisters.

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

fore, the Court virtually decided that it does not apply to any act of desertion in a British port, anywhere the vessel is not in parts beyond seas at the time. As it is desirable that this section of the Act, and the construction which it has received by the Court of Exchequer, should be well understood, I will read the words of the section in question. The words of the ninth section are as follows:—"That an absence of a seaman from the ship, for any time within the space of twenty-four hours immediately preceding the sailing of the ship, without permission, or for any period, however short, under circumstances plainly denoting that it was his intention not to return thereto, shall be deemed an absolute desertion." What is the construction which the Court of Exchequer has put upon the words? It has held, that the earlier words were strictly confined to the conduct of a sailor prior to the sailing of a ship from her port of clearance, and that the latter part of the section exclusively referred to what was done in parts beyond seas. It has also further held, that the 7th section of the Act especially provides for cases of temporary desertion, under other circumstances than those already adverted to. The necessary consequence of this decision is, that it is impossible for the Court to pronounce that the present case is a case of desertion under the 9th section of the statute. Having arrived at this conclusion, I will next consider whether any other part of the statute applies to the present case. Now the only other section which could have any application to the circumstances of the present case, is the 7th section, which provides in the following terms. (Court read the 7th section.) Does then the alleged desertion of this

mariner come within the provision of this section? I am clearly of opinion that it does not; and for this reason, that the 7th section expressly purports to provide a penalty for temporary absence from the vessel in cases not of absolute desertion, or not treated as such by the master; and in the present case, the averment of the owner is an absolute desertion on the part of the mariner, and that it was treated as such, and the entry in the log was made pursuant to the statute. For this reason, therefore, I must dismiss the 7th section also from my consideration in deciding this case, because it applies to temporary, and not to absolute desertion. There is, I regret to observe, considerable ambiguity in this statute, and the 7th section, in my opinion, refers to a desertion intended to be, but not in fact included in the 9th section, viz., a desertion in a British port, which is neither the port of clearance, nor the port of delivery, nor in parts beyond seas. Upon the whole of this part of the case, then, I am of opinion that the defence set up by the owner is not borne out by the statute which has been pleaded. At the same time, I think that if the acts done constitute a desertion, under the ancient maritime law, I must pronounce for the forfeiture of the wages. The ancient law, I conceive, has not been abrogated by the statute, except in the cases to which the statute exclusively applies. The Court, therefore, is not prohibited by the statute from resorting to the ancient law in a case of this description; if it were so prohibited, the consequence would be that there could be no desertion in a British port, not being the port of clearance; a consequence so productive of mischief in its effects, that no Court would adopt such a conclusion, un-

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SUITES.

1843.
9th June.

THE TWO
SISTERS.

less it were absolutely compelled to do so by the imperative terms of the statute itself.

I will now again refer to the circumstances of the case. The facts pleaded are, that the mariner quitted the ship, and remained absent for nine or ten consecutive days. These facts, if established, might, I think, constitute a legal desertion, provided an intention absolutely to quit can be inferred from the *res gestæ* of the case. Without such an intention on the part of the mariner, there can be no absolute desertion. If there be an absence from the vessel, *animo revertendi*, whatever be its duration, it would not be a desertion forfeiting the whole of the wages. The offence would fall within the provisions of the 7th section of the statute, which provides special penalties for absence short of actual desertion. I hope that I have made myself clearly intelligible upon this point; that in order to establish a total desertion, there must be proved an intention absolutely to quit the ship; and this intention is to be inferred from the circumstances of the case. The onus of proving these facts lies upon the owner, in the present instance, and the task is rendered somewhat more than ordinarily difficult by the consideration that the probabilities of the case are decidedly against him; for it is not likely, as has been observed in the argument, that the mariner, having nearly completed a long foreign voyage, would unnecessarily incur the forfeiture of his hard-earned wages, by a wilful desertion at the last moment, when approaching the final termination of his contract. What, then, is the evidence in support of the charge alleged? And here, in order to do perfect justice to the owner, I will refer, in the first place, to his own evidence in the cause,

and will judge him by his own testimony. The owner's evidence consists principally in the depositions of three persons, of the age of nineteen. I will now state the evidence of the first witness, M'Cutchin, and then see how far it is at variance with the other witnesses. In his deposition in chief on the 2nd article, he states that Hulton did go on shore on the afternoon of the 30th of November; that the brig was in a dangerous position when the seaman left her. And, upon the 3rd article, he says that neither J. Hulton, James Black, nor T. Thomas, came on board during the 1st of December. In his deposition upon the 4th article, he also swears that Hulton was not on board at all during the 2nd of December. Now, in his answer to the 6th interrogatory, he states that on the evening of the brig getting alongside the slip, the master met with an accident, and did not rejoin the brig; and, on the day after, viz., the 2nd of December, Hulton came on board, and spoke with the owner. The evidence of this witness, therefore, it is to be observed, is not altogether consistent. The next witness, Mullican, deposes nearly to the same effect, but not quite so; it is rather more in the direct terms of the allegation. In his answer to the 6th interrogatory, he states that Hulton came on board twice; once, several days after the ship had been alongside the slip, and the other time, he believes, on a previous day, but whilst the brig was at the slip. The third witness, M'Kenzie, deposes exactly to the same effect; and the tenor of his evidence, as well as that of the preceding witness, is in support of the allegation. If the case stopped here, I should be inclined to hold that the evidence of these witnesses, although

1848.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

it proved nothing as to whether the mariner went on shore with permission or not, most clearly established that he was absent from the vessel for several consecutive days, and that, under the circumstances, the *onus probandi* was changed, and that the mariner was bound to show that he had gone ashore and remained absent with permission. But there is other evidence which I must now advert to. Mr. Davidson, the sole owner, has been examined, and I very much doubt whether his evidence ought to be received at all. He is clearly an interested witness, and I cannot see that he can fall under the denomination of a necessary witness not having been on board the vessel during the voyage. It is, however, unnecessary for me to decide that question, as no objection has been urged against his competency; and, for the sake of examining the whole of the evidence, I will now refer to his testimony. In his deposition in chief upon the 4th article, he says that he came on board early in the morning of the 2nd of December, and "*he does not recollect*" seeing Hulton on board the brig "*at any time during the said 2nd of December*." And upon the 5th article, he states that neither Hulton nor the other, to his knowledge, came on board until several days after she had been lying alongside the slip. That it must have been on the 7th or 8th of December that he first saw J. Hulton, and that he then told him he had deserted the slip. In his answer to the 6th interrogatory, he further states, that "*neither Hulton, nor the others, made any offer, or declare themselves willing to return to or duty board the brig, and had either of them made such an offer he would have accepted it.*" Such is the evidence

of Mr. Davidson, the sole owner of the Two Sisters; and it is important evidence in this respect, that whilst it corroborates, to a certain extent, the testimony of the preceding witnesses, it also states that he, the owner, construed the absence of the mariner to be a total desertion. Perhaps he was mistaken in his law, and acted towards the seamen upon that supposition. I now come to the evidence of the last witness in support of the defence, a person of the name of Packhorwood, a custom-house officer; and the evidence of this witness differs materially from that of the other witnesses, inasmuch as he represents the mariner to quit the vessel upon the 29th of November, and to return upon the following day, the 30th, and so throughout the whole transaction. I will advert to his deposition upon the 2nd article. He says: "I was present in the cabin, when, in the evening of the 29th of November aforesaid, B. D., the master, told Black, the chief mate, that none of the crew were to leave the ship. On the same evening, all the crew, except the boys, went on shore; the second mate was amongst them. They all came on board the following morning, in time for their respective duties. On the said morning, (that is the 30th of November,) I recollect that the master, immediately after breakfast, went ashore. I cannot charge my memory that any of the crew left the brig on that day until about five o'clock in the afternoon, when they all went on shore again." So that, according to this witness, during almost the whole of the 30th of November, these persons were on board. He then further says: "Soon after they had gone, Mr. Davidson, the master, returned on board; he had his tea, and went ashore again. The chief mate

1848.
9th June.

THE TWO
SISTERS.

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

had tea with him and me. After the master had gone ashore, and about seven o'clock of the same evening, J. Black, the chief mate, went ashore only I and the three boys then remained on board the brig. The brig was then high and dry on the ground, and in no danger at the time." Upon the following article of the plea, he further deposes "that at about eleven o'clock of the morning of Thursday, the 1st of December, the second mate came up to the master, who was walking the deck and asked him for his mate's discharge; but the master replied that he would not give him discharge, because he had himself taken it," or, in other words, the master told him that he considered his being absent during the night,—twenty-four hours it had not been,—was a total forfeiture of his wages. He then says, "another man, one of the crew, who had on the same morning returned on board, came up to the master, and asked him to settle with him, upon which the master ordered him to his duty. He ordered him to clean the outside of the ship: the man replied, 'he would be ____ if he would,' after which the said man went on shore, as did also the second mate. The steward also came on board on the same morning but, as the others had done, afterwards left the brig. 'I believe that the master refused to receive them on board.'" Although the belief of this witness would not be direct evidence, the fact stated by him affords a sufficient justification for such belief, viz., that the master had already told the mate that he had taken his own discharge.

In his deposition in chief upon the 5th article this witness speaks nearly to the same effect with regard to the reception which the seamen me

with from Davidson, the owner, who was in charge of the vessel after the accident had befallen the master. He says, "I cannot be certain as to the exact day, but on one day, and, I believe, the next day after the brig had got alongside the slip, the second mate and another of the crew, who had left the brig, as aforesaid, came on board, and asked Mr. Davidson, the owner, who was there, to settle with them. He, in reply, said that he had nothing to do with them : he said that they were deserters—he said they had forfeited their wages and clothes." Upon the sixth interrogatory he swears to his belief, that during the six next days following the 1st of December, the mariners came frequently alongside, and sometimes on board the brig, but not that they saw the owner ; during all of which time, it is to be remembered, the vessel was in dock, the master disabled, and there is no evidence whatever to show whether the owner, who had come down to Swansea, was permanently on board to attend to any application made by these seamen, or to discharge the duties of master. A second master, it appears, was appointed, but when he took possession is not stated in any part of the case. In addition to the testimony to which I have thus far adverted in support of the defence, there is also the evidence of the log-book, which has been brought in. And supposing I were to consider its contents as admissible evidence in the cause, and entirely to be believed, what would be the effect of it? It would prove this, and nothing more, viz., that Hulton quitted the ship on the 30th of November, and remained absent upon the 1st and 2nd of December. As far, therefore, as the evidence of the log-book extends, it would, even if admitted, not

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

1848.
9th June.
The Two
Sisters.

prove in the slightest degree an abandonment of the ship, clearly showing an intention not to return; on the contrary, it would clearly bring the case within the 7th section of the statute, which imposes a specific penalty for temporary absence. But the entries which have been pleaded to have been extracted from the log-book, do not, I think, furnish such evidence as could influence the decision of the Court in determining the present question, and for the following reasons. In the first place, it is utterly impossible to reconcile the extracts themselves with the evidence of Packhorwood, the custom-house officer, who expressly and distinctly swears that the mariner did return, and was on board the vessel during the morning of the 1st of December. There is also a second objection against their being received as evidence, in the fact that the entries are not made in conformity with the regulations prescribed by the 9th section of the Act, which is the only section that applies to a case of total desertion. The provisions of the 9th section require that the circumstances attending the desertion should be entered at the time, and certified by the signature of the master and mate, or other credible witness.

Now there is no signature of the master, and consequently the proof of the alleged desertion, so far as regards the entry in the log-book, under the 9th section of the Act, entirely fails in that respect. With regard to the 7th section again, it is equally difficult to hold that the proof is conformable with the form and regulations prescribed by the statute.

Looking, therefore, at the whole of this evidence it only proves the following fact, that the marine

quitted the vessel without leave, and remained absent two days. This would not be an absolute desertion, but the master construed it to be so, and refused to receive Hutton back, or to give him his discharge. In such a view of the case, and upon such evidence, can I come to the conclusion that there was an entire desertion *sine animo revertendi*? I am clearly of opinion that I cannot; and that even in this *ex parte* view of the owner's case, the misconduct of the mariner would fall under the 7th section of the Act.

I will now proceed to examine the evidence which has been produced in support of the mariner's demand; and in so doing, I must observe, that the whole of the direct evidence in support of the summary petition is undoubtedly open to the imputation that it is given under very considerable bias. Two of the witnesses, it has been observed, are in *eodem delicto* with the plaintiff in the suit, and the third witness is the keeper of a public-house, who looks to the result of this suit for the payment of debts due to him by the party proceeding in the cause. Still, however, the evidence of these witnesses is entirely in unison with the evidence of the custom-house officer, upon a most important and essential point, viz., they all prove a return on board the ship upon the 1st of December; and I must say that, in my judgment, the evidence of these witnesses, supported as it is by that of the owner's witness, Packhorwood, greatly outweighs the evidence of the three boys, who only swear, that they did not see the mariner Hulton on board, not that he was not on board. Their evidence only tends to prove a negative, whilst the testimony of the plaintiff's witnesses, on the con-

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

1843.
9th June.
THE TWO
SISTERS.

trary, supported by the testimony of the custom-house officer, directly establishes an affirmative I am of opinion, therefore, that under the circumstances of the case, I cannot pronounce that the mariner has incurred a total forfeiture of his wages by an absolute desertion in the present instance I have felt considerable hesitation as to whether I ought not to have mulcted him of a portion of his earnings, under the 7th section of the Act, but I have found a difficulty in so doing upon two grounds,—

1st. That no reference has been made in the pleadings to any charge of temporary desertion.

2ndly. No such charge has been contended for in the argument at the bar.

Under these circumstances, therefore, although I think that in pronouncing for a temporary desertion, I should more nearly meet the truth and justice of the case, I must dismiss the defence of the owner, and pronounce in favour of the claim for the entire wages, and, of course, with the expenses.

18th June.

THE HEBE. HAMPTON.

Objections of pleading may be taken to any one of the component parts of an act on petition, but objections of this nature should not be taken without substantial reasons to support them.
A rejoinder in an act on petition must not

THIS was a question as to the admissibility of a rejoinder in a cause of bottomry. An act on petition, an answer, and a reply had been given in and admitted in the cause. The rejoinder to the reply was now opposed by

Haggard and Harding, for the bondholder.

Addams and Robinson, contrâ.

The substance of the various pleas, and of the

objections in the judgment, are fully noticed by the Court.

1843.
18th June.

THE HEBE.

state new matter of defence, unless such matter has come to the knowledge of the party since his answer was given in. But matter subsidiary of the defence contained in the answer may be stated in a rejoinder, when the reply to the answer takes issue upon the matter of defence there stated.

A party cannot lend money upon bottomry of a vessel, if, at the time, he is indebted to the owners, in respect of the vessel.

Per Curiam.

In proceeding to consider the objections which have been taken to the admission of this plea, I would, in the first instance, observe that, although under the authority of the decision of Lord Stowell (*a*), in the case of the Ville de Varsovie, it is clearly competent to the parties in a suit to take objections of this kind, yet these objections should not be raised without grave and substantial reasons in support of them. Cases may unquestionably occur, like the case decided by Lord Stowell, in which it may be right and proper to bring them before the Court, especially where the preliminary discussion might prevent the introduction of much irrelevant matter, which, if admitted, would lead to the accumulation of unnecessary evidence. Where, however, no such consequence is likely to result from the admission of the plea, the Court will be disposed to discontinue the discussion, as tending to defeat the objects for which the summary form of proceeding was introduced into the practice of the Court, viz., expedition, and the avoidance of expense to the suitors.

Having thrown out this observation, I will now direct my attention more immediately to the objections which have been offered to the admission of the present rejoinder. It has been objected, in the first place, that the rejoinder does not contain matter proper to be put in issue originally in the cause. It has also been objected, that if the matter might rightly have been pleaded in the first in-

(*a*) Unreported on this point.

1843.
13th June.
THE HEBR.

stance, it is now offered at too late a period of the proceedings. These objections have been supported by the argument, that great inconvenience and delay must be caused by the necessity that the objecting party must have to send to Sydney for fresh information to meet and answer what is alleged to be new matter in the cause. It is clear that, in order to give a satisfactory opinion upon these points I must look to the contents of the several pleas, because I must determine the question with reference to the case, as stated by the respective parties to the suit.

Now the first proceedings in the case was an action petition brought in on behalf of the bondholder. It was in the ordinary and common form, simply containing the usual averments which are necessary to support a bond in this Court. Let me next look to the answer to this first plea.

The answer states circumstances generally connected with the voyages and employment of this vessel; her proceeding to Sydney from this country; her arrival there in 1839; her going to Manilla and back under charter; and the persons advancing money on bottomry, and now suing by their assignee or agent in this country. It further sets forth that, in consequence of the owners of the vessel, who are resident in Scotland, being dissatisfied with the conduct of the then master, Malcolm, they sent out a joint power of attorney to Messrs Brown at Sydney, authorizing them, amongst other things, to remove Malcolm, and appoint some other master in his place. All these facts are important as bearing upon other parts of the averments. The answer, then, further alleges that at the time when the power of attorney was received by Messrs.

Brown, or soon after, Messrs. Dunlop, the charterers of the vessel on her last voyage, (not stating, however, what that last voyage was,) were indebted to the owners of the vessel for freight previously earned. This, in my opinion, is a most important, and, indeed, a leading averment in the defence, because it distinctly alleges that Messrs. Dunlop were indebted to the vessel at the time they advanced money for the use of the ship on bottomry. If any advances were necessary, and if at the time the advances were made on bottomry by Messrs. Dunlop they were debtors to the ship, surely they were bound first to discharge the debt, and if they had money in hand to advance on bottomry, they were clearly able to have done so, in which case there would have been no necessity for the bond. It is further alleged in the answer, that Messrs. Dunlop had been informed that Messrs. Brown were authorized to receive the money ; that Hampton was appointed master of the vessel in the place of Malcolm ; and that, under the advice of Messrs. Brown, advertisements were issued for the purpose of obtaining money on bottomry ; that Messrs. Dunlop offered to lend the money, and their offer was accepted.

The remainder of the answer impeaches the general validity of the bond upon somewhat different grounds, by denying the fact that the money was *bonâ fide* advanced, and alleging that, instead of paying certain tradesmen's bills, as they had undertaken to do, and to furnish the master with proper vouchers for the payment, Messrs. Dunlop had handed over receipts, signed not by those tradesmen, but by their (Messrs. Dunlop's) own clerk.

In substance, therefore, two grounds of defence are stated in this answer by way of invalidating the

1843.
18th June.
THE HERR.

1843.
13th June.
THE HEBE.

bond. The one is, that Messrs. Dunlop were debtors to the vessel when the money was advanced ; the other, that they did not *bond* for advance the money ; that is, did not make the pretended payments on behalf of the ship.

In order to make clear the observations which may hereafter have to make, I think it is absolutely necessary that I should here state the opinion which I entertain upon these two averments of the defence. I am of opinion, that these averments are fit and proper to be made ; for I deem it to be an undeniable axiom of law, that no person is entitled to make advances on bottomry, who, at the time of making them, is a debtor to the vessel on whose account the advances are made. I am well aware of the great difficulty which the Court will have to encounter in unravelling the present transaction both from the length of time which has elapsed and from the multiplicity of the accounts. This difficulty is materially increased, in the present case by the consideration that the whole of the circumstances have taken place in so distant a part of the world. Looking, however, to the averments in question, it is perfectly evident that, according to the whole doctrine of the Court on the subject of bottomry transactions, the Court cannot eventually sustain this bond, if it should finally turn out that Messrs. Dunlop, at the time when they advanced the money, were debtors to the vessel, or to the parties owning her. The whole foundation of these bonds is, that the master has no funds or credit to raise funds for the purpose of extricating the vessel from her difficulties ; and it cannot be truly said that he has no funds, when there is a person on the spot where the necessity arises who is in debt to the vessel or her owners, and who is com-

petent and liable to pay that debt. It has been intimated that the matters in question are beyond the means of this Court's investigation: at all events, they are not beyond its jurisdiction, for they are subjects with which the Court is in the constant habit of dealing.

I have thought it expedient to make these observations upon the two averments, upon which the defence is mainly rested, in the answer, and I must here remark, that the original defence is not framed precisely as I could wish. I think it should have been more precisely stated, in the first instance, how and to what amount Messrs. Dunlop were debtors to the vessel. I will now advert to what has been stated in the reply. It alleges that, at the time when Hampton was appointed master, the vessel was extremely deficient in stores and provisions, and large arrears were due to the seamen for wages, as well as to various tradesmen who had supplied stores and necessaries, who might have arrested the vessel, and, if necessary, might have sold her for the payment of their debts. The reply then proceeds to deny that Messrs. Brown were not the general agents of the owners; and it further alleges that, prior to the removal of Malcolm from the command of the vessel, Messrs. Dunlop had paid to him the whole amount of freight due from them to the vessel, as charterers thereof, and that they were not indebted to the vessel or the owners at or for some time prior to the advancement on bottomry of the loan which had been advertised for. This latter averment is most important, as furnishing a direct reply to the defence of the owners; for the answer of the owners says, Messrs. Dunlop were indebted at the time to the vessel.

1843.
13th June.
THE HKE.

1843.

13th June.

THE HENR.

The reply concludes with some subsidiary statements respecting the bills and the receipts, and a denial that Messrs. Dunlop were informed that Messrs. Brown were authorized to receive from them the payment of the money in which they were indebted to the ship as charterers. Having stated thus far the whole of the previous proceedings in this cause, I have now to consider what are the contents of the rejoinder, respecting which the present discussion arises. In approaching this consideration, it may be expedient that I should briefly state the principles which are applicable to a plea of this description.

Now, I apprehend that no absolutely new matter, that is, matter of a separate and distinct character from that which is alleged in the answer, ought to be pleaded in a rejoinder, unless, indeed, such new matter has come to the knowledge of the party pleading for the first time since the original answer was given in.

Subsidiary matter, in support of the original defence, may be alleged under a great variety of circumstances; for instance, when issue is taken in the original defence, and averments are made in support of that issue which require to be contradicted or explained; in such a case there is no other mode in which they can be answered, save in a rejoinder. How far do the contents of this rejoinder fall within this principle? The rejoinder sets out by denying that Messrs. Dunlop were not in any manner indebted to the vessel at or prior to the time when the pretended advances on bottomry were made. This, it is true, is *prima facie* a repetition of the original averment in the answer; but at the same time it is also a denial of what is

contained in the reply. It then goes on to support this denial, by particularizing the transactions in which the Messrs. Dunlop were engaged, as the charterers of the ship, alleging that on the return of the vessel to Sydney from Manilla, with a cargo of sugar, in the latter part of the year 1839, she was a second time chartered by Messrs. Dunlop to proceed thence to Batavia and Java, at the rate of £220 per month, whereby Messrs. D. became indebted to the vessel, or to her owners, in the sum of £1800 and upwards. I am of opinion, that it is perfectly competent to the owners to plead these averments, and for the following reasons: that it was not incumbent upon the owners, in writing to the act on petition, in the first instance, to state in their answer matter subsidiary to the general averment, that Messrs. Dunlop were indebted to them at the time the bottomry advances were made. It would, indeed, be most inconvenient to the Court, in proceedings of this kind, to enter into the details of such subsidiary matter in the answer, when the reply of the party proceeding might possibly admit the truth of the general averment, and allege that, notwithstanding such admission, the law was in their favour. Undoubtedly, in the answer, the principal ground of defence upon which the respondent relies, should be clearly stated; but matters merely subsidiary to what forms that defence, will more properly be introduced in the rejoinder. How then does this doctrine apply to this rejoinder? The reply sets forth, that Messrs. Dunlop were not indebted to the owners of the Hebe; and facts and reasons are stated to show that they were not so indebted. Surely, then, it is not only competent, but absolutely necessary, that the owners should

1843.
13th June.
THE HEBE.

1843.
18th June.
THE HERR.

state, in the present plea, the important facts which they have alleged, to support their original averment. The rejoinder next proceeds to state that the power of attorney, authorizing Messrs. Brown to displace Malcolm from the command of the ship, was received by Brown and Co., at Sydney, before the said brig's return from her voyage to Java, and that if Messrs. Dunlop really paid any portion of the freight due by them on account of the said voyage, to the said Malcolm, it was after the brig's return, and when they well knew that the said Brown and Co. had become the authorized agents of the owners, and were invested with a special authority to displace Malcolm, the former master. This, I think, is an admissible averment, as meeting the statement distinctly set up in the reply, that, in the payment of the debt as charterers, they had, prior to the removal of Malcolm, paid to him the whole amount of the freight due from them to the said brig. With respect to the remaining averment, that in the month of February, 1840, prior to the ship's return from Java, James Turner, brother of one of the owners of the ship, who was then at Sydney, at the instance of the owners, had an interview with Messrs. Dunlop, and then cautioned Messrs. Dunlop not to make any further advances to Malcolm, the then master. I think this averment is also entitled to be admitted as corroborative of the former averment, that Messrs. Dunlop were forewarned against making any further payment to the master. Upon the whole, then, I think that the rejoinder is entitled to be admitted. I am well aware that an increase of expense and delay may ensue from this further investigation, but it is abundantly clear that the

party has a perfect right to make good his defence by these averments, and that they are necessary and called for by the reply.

1843.
18th June.
THE HEBE.

Haggard. My party must have time to answer these matters.

Per Curiam.

If I am furnished with an affidavit that, for the purposes of justice, it is necessary to answer them, I will allow time.

THE SOCIEDADE FELIZ. JOAO DE SOUZA
CAMPOS.

18th June.

THE facts of this case have been already reported (*a*), and the question, which was a claim to share in the capture of a Brazilian slave ship condemned by the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, was now argued upon the merits.

In support of the claim, *Addams* and *Robertson* submitted—

That the evidence in the cause fully and satisfactorily established, that when the prize was first seen, and the Harlequin was about to give chase, the Forester was signalled from that vessel to remain behind and pick up the Harlequin's boats. That this signal was admitted by Lord F. Russell, the commanding officer of the Harlequin, to have been made by his directions; and all opportunity of actual co-operation in the chase was thus taken away from the Forester, by the order which Lieutenant Bond was bound to obey. That in obeying that order, and picking up the boats, as

Cases of claims to joint capture of slave vessels are to be governed by the principles established in the Prize Court of Admiralty with respect to claims to joint capture in time of war; subject, however, to such exceptions as the distinction between the respective cases may create; (*exempli gratia*,) where, in the former instance, a claim to joint capture is supported solely by the evidence of releasing witnesses.

Principles as to what will constitute association between

(*a*) *Ante*, Vol. I. 303.

1848.

13th June.

THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

ships of war.
An order was given by a superior to an inferior officer, by which the latter was prevented joining with his vessel in the chase of a slave ship, which was afterwards captured by the vessel of the former. Held, that a claim to joint capture was sustainable.

A claim to joint capture founded on a slave-ship being captured by one vessel in sight of the claimant vessel.

directed, the officers and crew of the Forester rendered a virtual assistance to the Harlequin, and, in expediting the movements of that vessel, which would otherwise have been delayed, greatly facilitated the speedy capture of the prize. That it was not disputed that the Forester was actually in sight of the prize at the commencement of the chase; and although there was no direct evidence to show that she was seen from the prize at the time the capture was made, this fact was fairly to be inferred under the circumstances of the case, the chase having been confined to the distance of only nine or ten miles from the place where the prize was first descried. Lastly, that the Forester was both able and willing to have joined in the chase, had she not been prevented by the order in question; and being a ship of war expressly fitted out and employed for the purpose of capturing vessels engaged in the slave trade, the *animus capiendi* in regard to the condemned slave ship was to be presumed. That under the circumstances of the case, therefore, the Forester was entitled to share as joint captor; and it would be a great hardship upon the officers and crew of that vessel, that they should be deprived of their title by their obedience to the commands of Lord F. Russell.

Queen's Advocate and Bayford, contrà.—

That there was no proof of that association and active co-operation on the part of the Forester, which would entitle that vessel to share as joint captor. That under the principles laid down in the case of the Aviso, questions of this kind were to be governed by the same rules as were adopted in cases of prize capture in time of war; and by those rules it was requisite that there should be an

actual co-operation in the capture, or at least a constructive assistance by intimidating the prize, in order to entitle a vessel to share as joint captor. That whatever might be the hardship upon the Forester, that she was prevented from joining in the chase by the order to pick up the Harlequin's boats, the obedience of Lieutenant Bond to this order would not entitle the Forester to share upon this consideration alone, under the authority of the Financier. That in delivering his judgment in that case, Lord Stowell said, "It may, perhaps, be a hardship, that this vessel should lose the benefit of joining in the prize, in consequence of the orders she received to pick up the boats of another ship, by which service she was delayed. The answer which must be given to those who entertain such an opinion is, that it is the first duty of the king's officers to obey the lawful commands of their superiors, and that views of mere private advantage are of secondary consideration only, and must give way to the imperative requisitions of the public service." That the circumstances of the two cases were analogous, and this dictum and final decision of Lord Stowell forcibly applied in the present case. That with respect to the *animus capiendi*, on the part of the Forester, the presumption was that there was no such intention on the part of that vessel; and this was clearly shown by the declaration of Lieutenant Bond himself, at the time, "that the vessel descipted was not a slaver, and not a prize." Lastly, that the only evidence in support of the Forester's claim, was the testimony of releasing witnesses; and it had been laid down, in former cases, that such evidence was insufficient to sustain a claim of joint capture. The learned counsel, in

1843.
19th June.
THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

1843.
13th June.

THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

ships of war.
An order was given by a superior to an inferior officer, by which the latter was prevented joining with his vessel in the chase of a slave ship, which was afterwards captured by the vessel of the former. Held, that a claim to joint capture was sustainable.

A claim to joint capture founded on a slave-ship being captured by one vessel in sight of the claimant vessel.

directed, the officers and crew of the Forester rendered a virtual assistance to the Harlequin, and, in expediting the movements of that vessel, which would otherwise have been delayed, greatly facilitated the speedy capture of the prize. That it was not disputed that the Forester was actually in sight of the prize at the commencement of the chase; and although there was no direct evidence to show that she was seen from the prize at the time the capture was made, this fact was fairly to be inferred under the circumstances of the case, the chase having been confined to the distance of only nine or ten miles from the place where the prize was first descried. Lastly, that the Forester was both able and willing to have joined in the chase, had she not been prevented by the order in question; and being a ship of war expressly fitted out and employed for the purpose of capturing vessels engaged in the slave trade, the *animus capiendi* in regard to the condemned slave ship was to be presumed. That under the circumstances of the case, therefore, the Forester was entitled to share as joint captor; and it would be a great hardship upon the officers and crew of that vessel, that they should be deprived of their title by their obedience to the commands of Lord F. Russell.

Queen's Advocate and Bayford, contrà.—

That there was no proof of that association and active co-operation on the part of the Forester, which would entitle that vessel to share as joint captor. That under the principles laid down in the case of the Aviso, questions of this kind were to be governed by the same rules as were adopted in cases of prize capture in time of war; and by those rules it was requisite that there should be an

actual co-operation in the capture, or at least a constructive assistance by intimidating the prize, in order to entitle a vessel to share as joint captor. That whatever might be the hardship upon the Forester, that she was prevented from joining in the chase by the order to pick up the Harlequin's boats, the obedience of Lieutenant Bond to this order would not entitle the Forester to share upon this consideration alone, under the authority of the Financier. That in delivering his judgment in that case, Lord Stowell said, "It may, perhaps, be a hardship, that this vessel should lose the benefit of joining in the prize, in consequence of the orders she received to pick up the boats of another ship, by which service she was delayed. The answer which must be given to those who entertain such an opinion is, that it is the first duty of the king's officers to obey the lawful commands of their superiors, and that views of mere private advantage are of secondary consideration only, and must give way to the imperative requisitions of the public service." That the circumstances of the two cases were analogous, and this dictum and final decision of Lord Stowell forcibly applied in the present case. That with respect to the *animus capiendi*, on the part of the Forester, the presumption was that there was no such intention on the part of that vessel; and this was clearly shown by the declaration of Lieutenant Bond himself, at the time, "that the vessel described was not a slaver, and not a prize." Lastly, that the only evidence in support of the Forester's claim, was the testimony of releasing witnesses; and it had been laid down, in former cases, that such evidence was insufficient to sustain a claim of joint capture. The learned counsel, in

1843.
18th June.
THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

1848.
13th June.
THE SOCIEDADE
FELIX.

support of the arguments, cited the cases of the Fadrelandet, 5 Rob. 120; Drie Gebroeders, 5 Rob. 339; the Union, 1 Dodson, 346; the Nordstern, Acton, 128.

Addams and Robertson, in reply—

That the fair inference to be drawn from the evidence upon the facts of the case was, that the Forester was seen from the prize at the time of the chase, and if so, intimidation was to be presumed; and that would be sufficient to entitle the Forester to share, under the principles adopted in cases of capture in time of war. That it frequently happened, during the war, that a prize was taken by a vessel of one squadron, in the presence of another ship, attached to an entirely different squadron, and under a totally different command; yet, provided an intimidation upon the prize was effected by the presence of such ship, the claims of the officers and crew to share as joint captors had been over and over again allowed, although no direct association existed between the two vessels. With respect to the argument, that the commanding officer of the Forester had abandoned the *animus capiendi*, the evidence in support of this assertion was inferential only, being derived from the opinion expressed by Lieutenant Bond, that the chase was not a slaver; and such an opinion, even if expressed, was no proof that he would not, if required, have co-operated in the chase and capture in question, more especially under the circumstances of the case, when the contrary is expressly averred upon oath by the several witnesses who have been examined in support of the Forester's claim.

Lastly, that with regard to the objection that the

laim of the Forester rested entirely upon the evidence of releasing witnesses, the objection was sufficiently answered by the reasoning and the decision of Lord Stowell, in the case of the Galen.

1843.
18th June.
THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

2nd August.

JUDGMENT—*Dr. Lushington.*

This vessel was condemned by the British and Brazilian Mixed Commission Court, at Sierra Leone, as engaged in the slave trade, and a claim is now set up on behalf of Her Majesty's brig Forester to share with the Harlequin, the actual captor, in a moiety of the proceeds, and also in the bounty which is given by Act of Parliament. When the question was brought under the consideration of the Court in the first instance, I expressed my concurrence in the principle laid down by Lord Stowell, in the case of the Aviso, that the rules which governed cases of joint capture in the time of war should be applied to questions of this description. Upon further reflection, I feel no disposition to depart from that opinion. At the same time, I am inclined to think, and so, I conceive, was Lord Stowell in delivering his judgment in the case of the Aviso, that in questions of slave capture, cases may arise which could not be rigidly and strictly governed by the same rules which are applicable to joint capture in time of war. Between the two descriptions of cases, essential distinctions will occasionally be found, which must preclude the application of the same identical rules. For example, in many instances of slave capture, it would, I conceive, be productive of much positive injustice to enforce the application of the rule, that a claim to share as joint captor should not be supported by the evidence of releasing witnesses alone.

1843.
2nd August.
THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

What is the foundation of the rule in question? It is this: that in all ordinary cases of prize capture, unexceptionable testimony may be produced *aliunde*, viz., the evidence of the persons on board the captured vessel. In cases of slave capture when the condemnation takes place before the Mixed Commission Court, it is obvious that such evidence, in a great majority of instances, cannot be possibly obtained. The present case, appears to me, is a case of this description; and for this reason I cannot feel justified in sustaining the argument which has been pressed by the counsel for the actual captor, that the claim of the Forester must altogether fail, because there is no evidence in its support but that of releasing witnesses. I do not feel that the reasoning, upon which this opinion is founded, requires any authority to sustain it; it is founded upon a natural principle of equity and justice. That in order to establish a legal claim, such proof cannot be legally required as *sine qua non*, which, according to the ordinary rules of probability, cannot be produced. If it were necessary to cite authorities to confirm this position, the case of the Galen, which was adverted to in the argument, would, I apprehend, supply sufficient confirmation. I do not see any material difference between that case and the present case. For although the case of the Galen was an ordinary prize transaction, the rules and principles of evidence which were adopted in that case may equally apply in the present instance.

I will now advert to another consideration in this case, which has a material and important bearing upon the claim which has been set up on behalf of the Forester, viz., Whether or not there was up-

the present occasion any association between the Forester and the Harlequin? and if there was any such association, what was its description and extent? I greatly regret that the case is left so entirely bare of evidence upon this important particular. In the case of the Aviso, which has been referred to, Lord Stowell, I find, held, and that without doubt or hesitation, that where vessels were united together for the suppression of the illegal traffic in slaves, such union was an association in the legal construction of that phrase. The distinction between this case and the Aviso I presume to be, (for under existing circumstances it is little more than a guess,) that in the latter case one of the vessels, the Bann, had received special orders from the Admiralty to put herself under the command of the Maidstone. In the present case, it does not appear from the evidence before the Court that any such directions were given. Both vessels, the Harlequin and the Forester, it appears, were furnished with special orders from the Admiralty to suppress the illicit traffic in slaves; but beyond this, as the case is laid before the Court, no further directions seem to have been given. It has indeed been stated, that Lord Francis Russell was the senior commanding officer of the Sierra Leone division of the squadron on the western coast of Africa. But the most important point has been left entirely unnoticed, viz., whether, as senior officer on the station, Lord Francis Russell had or had not the general control and superintendence of the movements of the Forester, and whether she acted under his orders or not. Had such an union been proved by evidence, I should have held that it fell within the

1848.
2nd August.
THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

1848.
2nd August.
THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

legal definition of association laid down by Lord Stowell in his observations in the case of the *Aviso* and such an association would have materially strengthened the claim of the Forester upon the present occasion.

Looking to the evidence in the cause, I regret to say that no such union or association is established; and in the absence of legal proof to that effect, I cannot assume it. I dwell more particularly upon this point, because, according to my own knowledge of the proceedings upon the coast of Africa, the contrary is the most probable.

In determining this case, therefore, I must whether the fact be so or not, consider that the two vessels were acting independently of each other although both having the same object in view, but not associated for the common purpose. They meeting accidentally, the senior officer would have the right to give orders in any incidental transaction in which the two vessels might be engaged together, but that he would possess no authority over the general conduct of the Forester. Upon this basis, then, I will now proceed to the further examination of the facts of the case. The two vessels, it appears, were lying together off Cape Palmas. The captured vessel was despatched both, and the Harlequin went in chase, but the Forester did not. So far the facts of the case are undisputed. The question here arises, if any authority what orders were given by Lord Francis Russel to Lieutenant Bond, who had the command of the Forester. Upon this point there is a very great conflict of evidence. On the part of the Forester it is alleged that orders were issued to her remain at anchor until the Harlequin returned.

This statement is denied on the part of the Harlequin; but Lord Francis Russell, it is to be observed, himself admits that he ordered the Forester to remain, and pick up his boats. This order, which the Forester was bound to obey, and which she did obey, in my opinion, is a most important ingredient in the case. What is the legal effect of such an order? Is it not a rendering assistance to the Harlequin towards the capture of the slaver? Could the Harlequin have gone in chase if the Forester had not been there,—at least until she had picked up her boats? I have but little hesitation in coming to the conclusion that she could not. If the fact be so, the practical effect of the Forester's obedience to the order in question was to accelerate the operations of the Harlequin, and consequently to contribute some assistance towards the speedy chasing and final capture of the prize. The order so given by Lord Francis Russell was not alien from the object which he had in view, viz., the capture of the vessel which was descried. On the contrary, the order was directly auxiliary, and the performance of the order was co-operative to the attainment of the object proposed. The present is, in this respect, widely distinguishable from the case of a superior officer giving orders for a separate and distinct service, necessarily removing the ship from the scene of operation.

Now, if to the circumstance to which I have just adverted, there should be added proof of sight at the time of the capture, and the possibility of the Forester's joining in the chase and capture, unless prevented by the order of Lord Francis Russell, I am clearly of opinion that these facts,

1843.
2nd August.
THE SOCIETY
FELL.

1843.
2nd August.
THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

taken together, would constitute a sufficient claim to entitle the Forester to share in the money to be distributed.

With respect to the question of sight, the important point always is whether the captured vessel saw or could see the vessel claiming to share; and this point, in the absence of direct testimony from or board the captured vessel, must of necessity be made out by inference. In the present instance, there is, I think, no reasonable ground to doubt that the Sociedade Feliz saw the Forester in the morning of the day on which the capture was effected. Mr. Marriott a witness on behalf of Lord Francis Russell, and of the Harlequin, states that even at the time of the capture, after a chase varying in duration (according to the different statements) from one hour and a half to two hours and a half, the distance between the Sociedade Feliz and the Forester was only from eight to ten miles. That the Forester saw the Sociedade Feliz is beyond all dispute; and although from circumstances stated in the evidence, there might have been greater difficulty in the Sociedad Feliz seeing the Forester at the time of the capture there is, I conceive, sufficient reason to conclude that the Forester might have been seen; and I am disposed to hold that this would be sufficient where sight, at an earlier period, is established.

It is not, I apprehend, absolutely necessary, under the circumstances here stated, that sight, at the actual time of the capture, should be proved. I am inclined to think that such proof is unnecessary where detention in the service of the actual captor is completely established, as it is in the present instance.

It has, however, been contended in argument, a

another ground of objection to the Forester's claim, that the Forester from her disabled condition, and the sickly state of her crew, could not have prosecuted the chase, even if her commander had desired it. Looking to the evidence before me, I do not think that this averment is borne out in proof. On the contrary, in my judgment, the result of the evidence tends to show that that vessel was lying at single anchor at the time; and although some of her crew might be sick, she had on board a sufficient number of healthy persons to have enabled her to make sail, and to have effected this capture, if it had been necessary for her to proceed in chase, and if she had not been kept back by the orders of Lord Francis Russell, to which I have adverted. I must now briefly refer to the last remaining point which has been urged by the counsel for the Harlequin, namely, the asserted declaration of Lieutenant Bond, that the vessel descried was not a slave ship, and not a prize. This declaration, it has been contended, clearly shows that the commander of the Forester had no intention to chase, and that the absence of such intention on his part is fatal to the claim of joint capture which has been set up. Now, assuming the declaration to have been made as stated, I am of opinion that such a declaration, made under the circumstances of the case, after the order had been received to pick up the boats, could not produce the effect which is ascribed to it. The expression of such an opinion does not necessarily show an absence of an *animus capiendi*; and it certainly adds nothing to the admitted fact that the Forester did not join in the chase, the effect of which fact I have already taken into my consideration.

1843.
2nd August.
THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

1843.
2nd August.
THE SOCIEDADE
FELIZ.

In the investigation of the transaction under consideration, I have not attempted to reconcile the discrepancy in the evidence upon this part of the transaction, and upon other matters. It is unnecessary that I should do so; and I gladly forbear from taking upon myself a task which I should despair to accomplish satisfactorily. My judgment will be founded upon the facts which I consider to be established by the evidence on both sides. Looking at these facts, I hold that the Forester is entitled to share. I am most desirous that it should be distinctly understood, that my decision is founded upon the union and combination of all the circumstances of the case, and not upon the one or the other of them singly.

I am also further desirous that it should be understood that, in forming my decision, I have not ventured to pronounce any opinion upon one point which has been raised in the argument, viz., That the Forester was bound not to chase without an order from the senior officer on the station; and that having remained at anchor, as it were, by compulsion, in consequence of no such order having been given, she was upon this account entitled to share. This is an important point, which I am not called upon to determine upon the present occasion, and I therefore leave it untouched, as a point which may be fully open to discussion upon any future occasion.

For the reasons which I have stated, I am ~~in~~ opinion that the Forester is entitled to share ~~in~~ the proceeds of this capture; and as the question which has been raised was a question requiring very deliberate consideration, I think the expenses ~~on~~ on both sides should be paid out of the proceeds.

THE BETSEY. THOMPSON.

1843.
20th July.

HIS was a cause of salvage, promoted by the owners and crew of the steam vessel Copeland, services rendered to the above ship, under the following circumstances. The steam vessel Copeland, it was stated in the act on petition, was, on the evening of the 15th of January last, nearly opposite Margate, making for the Foreland, in order to take shelter under it during the night, when, about half-past three, P.M., the wind blowing smart breeze from the w., she descried a brig lying at anchor in the Queen's Channel, at the distance of three or four miles, with her ensign hoisted as a signal for assistance. The master of the Copeland, having steered towards her, found her to be the Betsey, the vessel proceeded against; and on going alongside, he was informed by the persons on board that, in consequence of having been exposed to violent gales, she was in a leaky condition, with her sails torn and very much damaged, and that her crew were in an exhausted state. An agreement was made by the master of the Copeland to tow her to London at daylight on the following morning, for the sum of £50; and the Copeland then left her, and ran under Broadstairs for the night. About five, A.M., of the following morning, the Copeland got under weigh, and went out towards the Betsey; but the wind, which had increased during the night, blowing hard, accompanied with thick snow, the brig was not discovered until daybreak, when the steamer immediately went alongside, and found that during the night she had been compelled to drop her second

Agreement made by the master of a steam tug, to tow a damaged vessel from the Queen's Channel up to London for £50.

Attempt made by the master and crew of the steam tug to convert the service into a salvage service, upon the plea that the original agreement had been cancelled by consent; also that circumstances had subsequently occurred which rendered the agreement no longer binding.

Claim of the salvors overruled, and the sum of £50, which had been tendered in act of Court, pronounced for.

1843.
20th July.
THE BETSEY.

anchor. It being found impossible to get up both her anchors, the crew of the Betsey slipped one, and in order to save the other, the crew of the Copeland passed a new eight-inch hawser on board the brig, which had none sufficiently strong for the purpose, and immediately began to tow ahead.

At this time a large East Indiaman, which was lying at anchor higher up the river, hoisted a signal to the Copeland for assistance; but as the brig could not dispense with her services, the signal was not attended to. After towing ahead for about half an hour, the anchor of the Betsey was with difficulty raised, and as the weather threatened to become worse, and the brig's bows were at the time frequently under water, the master of the Copeland advised the master of the Betsey to run into Ramsgate Harbour for shelter; but the said master expressing his desire to proceed, the Copeland continued to tow the brig. The act on petition then further set forth in detail the danger of the brig, and the difficulties encountered by the steamer in performing the service towards the Betsey. That in consequence of the storminess of the weather they were obliged to put into Ramsgate Harbour, where the Copeland was detained in the service of the salvors during a whole night.

The main facts of the case, as stated by the salvors, were not denied in the answer of the owners. They made a tender of £50 in acts of Court, and their defence was simply rested upon the sufficiency of the tender so made, it being the sum originally agreed upon with the master of the Copeland.

The reply of the Copeland, in answer to the alleged agreement, stated, that when the Copeland approached within hail of the brig, on the morning

he 16th, Murray, the master of the steamer, and the master of the brig, and informed him it was as much as the steamer could do, in the existing state of the weather, to take care of her, and advised him to slip and run for shelter to investigate. That upon the master of the brig then requiring him to fulfil his contract, the said J. M. said he could not, and would not, undertake it according to the agreement of the preceding even-
viz., £50. That the master of the brig then proposed that the agreement should be cancelled, that the Copeland should endeavour to take the Betsey either to London or to some place of safety.

The whole of this averment was denied in a re-
sider. The value of the ship, cargo, and freight, £2,893.

1848.
20th July.
THE BETSEY.

JUDGMENT—*Dr. Lushington.*

In this case, the plea in the original act on behalf of the promoters of the suit, is confined to a claim for salvage, in which they allege that they have discharged their duty to the vessel, and that the sum of £50, which has been offered, is an insufficient remuneration. The case, therefore, in the first instance, assumes the shape of a mere question respecting the *quantum meruit* of the party who has performed the service. When, however, it comes to be more narrowly examined, other questions of a very different complexion. It is stated on behalf of the salvors, in the original act on behalf of the promoters of the suit, that upon the 15th of January last they discovered the Betsey riding at anchor in the Queen's Channel, with her ensign hoisted as a signal for assistance; and that upon coming up to the brig,

1843.
20th July.
THE BETSEY.

they were informed that she had been exposed to considerable difficulties from stress of weather, so that she was in a leaky condition, and her ~~as~~ were much damaged. It is also further stated that an agreement was made with the master of the Betsey, that the Copeland should, at daylight the following morning, tow the vessel up to London for £50. This agreement having been made, the Copeland, it appears, left the Betsey, and was under Broadstairs for the night, the weather at the time being, it is evident, by no means calm, though not boisterous; because it is expressly alleged, in the act on petition, that at the time the salvors first saw the Betsey, they were making for the Foreland, in order to take shelter under it during the night. Upon this statement an observation was made by the Queen's Advocate, which I think, perfectly well founded, viz., that the agreement in question, whatever it might have been in the first instance, was obviously made between the salvors with an adequate knowledge of all the circumstances relating to the previous state and condition of the vessel requiring their assistance.

Now the fact of the agreement being admitted such agreement would be legally conclusive upon the claim at issue in this cause, unless it has been rescinded by operation of law, or by the mutual consent of the contracting parties. The *onus probandi* rests with the owners of the Copeland, in the present instance, and they have endeavoured to discharge themselves of this obligation in two ways. In the first place it has been alleged that the agreement was cancelled by mutual consent; and secondly, that circumstances subsequently occurred which render the agreement no longer obligatory and binding upon

them. Looking to the pleadings in the cause, I do not find any mention in the original act on petition, that the agreement in question was cancelled by consent of parties, or in any other manner, although it is so stated in the reply, and in the latter part of the affidavit of Murray, the master of the Copeland, it is sworn to this effect. He deposes, that when he commenced towing the Betsey up the river, on the 16th of January, he distinctly informed the master that he did not then consider himself bound by the agreement to perform the service for £50, and that the master of the Betsey thereupon entreated him not to leave him, at the same time saying that they would hereafter agree what sum should be paid for the services of the Copeland. The affidavit of this witness then further sets forth, that the master of the Betsey frequently declared, in the presence of deponent and of others, that he did not consider the agreement as binding upon the deponent; and that had it not been for the services of the Copeland, the Betsey would inevitably have been lost.

How then does the matter stand upon this first point in the case? With regard to the asserted cancellation, it is distinctly pleaded in the reply of the owners of the Copeland, and as distinctly denied by the owners of the Betsey in their rejoinder. There is also the affidavit of the master of the Copeland on the one hand, who swears that the agreement was cancelled by consent; on the other hand, there is an affidavit of the master of the Betsey directly supporting the denial. No other evidence is before the Court to corroborate the respective averments upon the one side or the other.

1848.
20th July.
THE BETSEY.

1843.
20th July.
The Betsy.

In this conflict of evidence upon this point, I am bound to hold, that the cancellation of the agreement by consent of parties is not sufficiently made out; and this upon the principle that whoever takes upon himself to establish the fact that an admitted agreement has been invalidated by consent of parties, is bound to prove, by clear preponderance of testimony, that it was so cancelled; and this has not been done in the present instance.

I now come to the second point in the case which is set up by the owners of the Copeland, viz., that the agreement, in consequence of inevitable circumstances, has been defeated, or, in other words, that the state of circumstances was subsequently so far altered as to render the service no longer a towage, but a salvage service. In support of this proposition, the case of the William Brandt has been cited (The learned Judge here referred to the circumstances of the case cited, and proceeded to observe —The consideration then is, whether the circumstances of this case bring it within the terms of the principle which I laid down in deciding the case of the William Brandt? I am of opinion that they do not, and that there is a material distinction between the two cases, inasmuch that in the case cited the steamer was in the actual performance and discharge of the agreement itself, when, in consequence of the weather, and without any blame attaching to the steamer, the vessel got upon the sand, and so became exposed to the dangers which rendered the extra exertions of the steamer necessary for her safety. In the present case, the averment is, that the agreement was cancelled in the very commencement of the service, and that the

transaction throughout was a salvage transaction, the remuneration of which was to be settled afterwards.

1848.
20th July.
The Betsey.

This circumstance, it appears to me, creates a grave distinction between the two cases, because the owners of the Copeland cannot say, on the present occasion, "We were honestly, fairly, and skilfully discharging an agreement already made, and circumstances which we could not foresee altered that agreement." Considering, then, the agreement a subsisting agreement, not cancelled by consent of parties, what were the circumstances which subsequently occurred? and how far were these circumstances such as neither party could reasonably be expected to foresee, and which consequently could not be fairly supposed to have been in their contemplation at the time they made the agreement? Did any thing occur during the night, or upon the following morning, to engraft an alteration of circumstances upon the original agreement? The evidence in the cause does not enable me to arrive at any such conclusion. It may be true, as stated, that the violence of the wind increased upon the morning of the 16th; but looking to the season of the year when the transaction took place, remembering, too, that the wind at the time was blowing a smart breeze from the west, such an occurrence must, I conceive, have been within the contemplation of the contracting parties when the agreement was made upon the preceding evening. Another fact has been stated by the salvors, which is in some degree contradicted, viz., that after the departure of the Copeland, upon the evening of the 15th, the master of the Betsey, in consequence of the increasing roughness of the weather, was com-

1848.
20th July.
THE BETSEY.

elled to let go a second anchor. Now, whether the second anchor was so dropped in the afternoon of the 15th, and prior to the arrival of the Copeland, as stated in the Betsey's protest, or during the night, according to the statement of the salvors, the fact itself can have no material bearing upon the issue in the cause, and most unquestionably cannot be considered as in any degree shaking the obligation of the agreement, or as entitling the salvors to a higher remuneration. It was properly observed in the argument, by the counsel for the Betsey, that the agreement in question was not for an ordinary towage service, and that the reward was upon a higher scale of remuneration than would ordinarily be paid for towing a vessel from the place where the Betsey was lying at anchor up to London. It may be true, as was suggested by the counsel for the Copeland, that the sum offered is not a much higher sum than would be customarily paid. Still, in my judgment, it is not sufficient to give to the agreement in question the character of a special agreement, under the circumstances of the case. It would, I conceive, be exceedingly dangerous to allow such agreements to be set aside, unless upon strong and sufficient reasons. I see no such reasons in the present instance, and I must therefore pronounce that the tender of £50 is a sufficient tender, and I must give the owners of the Betsey their costs from the period when such tender was made.

THE NICOLINA. DERELICT.

1848.
20th July.

[N this case, the Nicolina, a Russian vessel, was discovered at sea abandoned by her crew, about ninety miles to the N.W. of the Scilly Islands. The master of the Clara and Emma, a West Indiaman, with a valuable cargo on board, and bound from Jamaica to London, put three of his men and his chief mate on board the derelict, and she was brought with difficulty to Milford Haven, upon the 1st of April last.

The value of the ship and cargo was £1,153. An action was entered by the owners, master, and crew of the Emma, and a separate action was brought by the mate.

The Court awarded £550, and in delivering its judgment observed:—With respect to the apportionment of the sum awarded, the distribution, in all cases of this kind, between the owners and the crew, must depend upon the peculiar circumstances of each individual case. Where no risk has been incurred by the vessel rendering the assistance, it is not the usual custom for the Court to decree to the owners any large portion of that reward which more properly belongs to the individuals whose services have effected the safety and preservation of the ship. Upon the present occasion, I must not forget that the ship and cargo of the Emma are of considerable value, and that a large portion of her crew was withdrawn, and consequently, to a certain extent, the risk of the Clara and Emma was increased. I shall allot £100 to the owners. With respect to the captain, as the whole responsibility

Apportionment
of a salvage
award between
the owners and
crew of a salv-
ing vessel—
half costs only
given where se-
parate appear-
ances had been
given for the
mate, and for
the owners and
rest of the crew.

1843.
20th July.

THE NICOLINA.

rested upon him, I shall allot to him the like sum of £100. Also to the mate I shall allot £100. To the three men who went on board the derelict I shall award £150, and the remaining £100 to the men who remained on board the Clara and Emma.

With regard to the costs, I regret that there has been a separate appearance for two sets of salvors, because, in cases of this kind, it is not right to put the property of this description to double costs. On the present occasion, I shall give half costs to each of the parties.

27th July.

THE TRUE BLUE. ROBERTS.

Agreement be-
tween the
master of a ves-
sel salved and
the salvors up-
held.

Claim of
the salvors dis-
missed.

THIS was also a question respecting an alleged agreement in a case of salvage, under the circumstances noticed in the judgment of the Court.

The case was argued by *Phillimore, A. A.*, and *Elphinstone*, for the salvors.

Queen's Advocate and Bayford, for the owners.

Per Curiam.

The statements which are set up in this case on behalf of the respective parties in the suit, are more than usually conflicting. The averment of the salvors is to this effect:—that the vessel, laden with a cargo of anchors, and other articles of that description, struck upon the West Rocks, about seven miles from the port of Harwich, on the morning of the 20th of March last. It is, I conceive, very unimportant, in any view that I can take of this case, to ascertain at what precise period of the day the vessel so struck upon the rocks.

upon the rocks, the salvors, it appears, immediately went out to her assistance in two boats, Sylvan, commanded by James Cook, and the Maria's Increase, whose master is a person of the name of Edward Lewis; and, according to the account of the salvors, they reached the vessel between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, their services were immediately accepted, for the purpose of assisting to get the ship off the rocks. An agreement, it is admitted, was made between the master of the True Blue and the salvors, when their services were so accepted; but the agreement, it is alleged on behalf of the salvors, was limited, and strictly limited, to the sole purpose of laying out the anchor. When that was done, the stipulated service of the salvors was concluded, and the agreement was at an end; and for further services which might be rendered, they were to receive according to their representation, to receive such remuneration. It appears that they proposed to render their assistance by laying out the anchor in the first instance; and it has been much disputed in the argument, whether the anchor was put out in a proper direction or not. This point, however necessary, I will consider hereafter. It appears that, before the vessel was got off the rocks, the wind increased; and that when she finally got off, whether by the exertions of the salvors, or whether she floated off herself, other smacks were, at their instance, and by their recommendation, employed, and by the united assistance of all other smacks, in addition to the two first mentioned, the vessel was eventually brought safely into the harbour of Harwich, at half-past one, P.M.,

1842.
27th July.
The True
Blue.

1843.
27th July.
THE TRUE
BLUE.

of the same day. Such, in substance, is the case which is set up by the salvors upon the present occasion, and if the facts of the case were precisely in accordance with the representation here given, I should entertain no doubt whatever that the salvors would be entitled to a reward considerably higher than the sum of £6, which has been tendered; because, although the vessel might perhaps originally have been in no great danger when she first struck upon the rocks, yet the increase of the wind would have rendered it exceedingly expedient, if not indispensable to her safety, that she should be got off without loss of time. I will now refer to the averment of the owners of the True Blue. It is stated on their behalf that Cook and Lewis were the principal persons concerned, and that the master of the True Blue entered into a negociation with these two individuals, whereby they undertook, according to the terms of the agreement, to which I will presently advert, to effect the release of the vessel from the rocks, and to conduct her into the harbour of Harwich. It is also further stated, that the salvors, in performing the service, such as it was, did not conduct themselves with adequate skill; and lastly, that there was no necessity for the employment of the other four boats, and that they were engaged by Lewis and Cook, without the consent of the master of the True Blue, and against his will and repeated expostulation.

The first consideration, then, to which I must address my attention, is the agreement in question. It is in these words:—"It is this day firmly agreed by James Cook and Edward Lewis, with Robert Roberts, master of the True Blue, of Aberdeen, to

it him to get the ship off the West Rocks, and
the port of Harwich, if required, for the sum of
sterling."

1843.
27th July.
THE TRUE
BLUE.

Now I entertain no doubt whatever, that an
agreement of this description can be legally made
between a master of a vessel in distress, and per-
affording a salvage assistance, provided there
is a clear understanding of the nature of the agree-
ment; that it is made with fairness and impartiality
by all concerned; and that the parties to it are
competent to form a judgment as to the obligations
which they are binding themselves. Such an
agreement, I feel no hesitation to pronounce, would
be a binding instrument, not to be disturbed by a
decision of this Court. On the contrary, it would
be the duty of the Court to enforce the fulfilment
of such an agreement, and I am borne out in this
opinion by the authority of Lord Stowell, in the
case of the Mulgrave, which has been cited by the
Crown's Advocate.

The real issue, therefore, which I have to determine in this case is, whether or not an agreement
to effect stated, was executed between the parties
in the suit. But before I consider this point,
I will look to the parties themselves, and their capacity
of entering into such a contract. With
respect to the master of the True Blue, it is most
plainly clear that he was perfectly competent,
acting on behalf of the owners, to enter into any *bond*
agreement which he might think requisite for
the purpose of fixing the remuneration for the services
he required. With regard to the salvors, on the
other hand, I see no reason to suppose that
they were persons so uninformed and ignorant of
their own interests, as not to be equally capable of

1849.
27th July.
The True
Blue.

binding themselves by an agreement, to which both of them had appended their signatures. There was no such imminent emergency as to prevent time for due consideration. The weather was moderate when they came on board, and there was nothing to induce them to enter into the agreement without a just regard to their own interests, as the extent of the service to be performed. Of persons in the world, they were the most competent to form an estimate as to the value of the service which was required from them; and it is no argument against the validity of the contract, that in the first instance it was entered into under the impression that the service would be light, but that in consequence of a change of weather, or of circumstances of that nature, it subsequently came more onerous. It is the very nature of agreements of this kind, to fix a stated sum as a compensation for a stated service, and the parties who enter into the engagement take the risk of a change of circumstances which may, in effect, affect the extent of the stipulated service. In the present instance, if the vessel had floated off the rocks immediately after the agreement was signed, and before the services of the salvors commenced, the master of the True Blue would have been bound to pay them the stipulated sum of £6. And can it be doubted, for a single moment, that the salvors supposing the agreement was duly entered into, were equally bound to fulfil their part of the contract, although much greater difficulties might have been introduced into its performance than were originally contemplated by them. Such a position would be alike repugnant to common sense and to all principles of equity and justice. Be-

therefore of opinion that, in point of law, there was nothing inequitable or unjust in the agreement in question, and that, if duly executed by the parties, it is a valid and binding agreement, I must now examine the terms of the contract, and see whether it was *bona fide* entered into in point of fact.

1843.
27th July.
T. T. T. T. T.
Bruce.

It is admitted that the signatures to the agreement are the proper signatures of Cook and Lewis, the immediate parties in the suit. I apprehend, therefore, that *prima facie*, unless the contrary be proved, they must be considered to be cognizant of the contents of the instrument, and to have intended to bind themselves according to its tenor. This is the natural presumption, and is also the presumption of law; and this presumption is further confirmed by the evidence in the cause, and the probabilities of the case itself. On the part of the master, David Bruce distinctly swears that the agreement was read over to the persons, and was also read by them; and I do not find any distinct statement or plea, on the part of the salvors, contradicting the averment that it was so read over. But what are the probabilities? Is it probable that these two persons being called upon by the master to execute a written agreement, which so deeply concerned their interest in the transaction, would be satisfied without hearing it distinctly read over, or without reading it themselves? Again: is it probable that, having learnt the contents of the instrument, they could have misunderstood their purport and effect? The statement made by the individuals themselves in their affidavits of the 10th and 11th of June, is utterly irreconcileable with the whole course of the transaction. Their statement is, that they signed an agreement for £5, simply for

1843.
27th July.
The True
Blue.

the service of laying out an anchor, and getting the vessel off; and that subsequently to the signing of this agreement, a discussion took place respecting the payment of an additional one pound to Edward Lewis, for piloting the vessel into Harwich harbour. This statement on the part of the salvors, it is manifest, is not deserving of the slightest attention at the hands of the Court, and for the following reasons. In the first place, it is evident not only that the agreement in question contains nothing of the kind, but that the transaction never could have assumed that shape because it is to suppose that the master, after the signatures had been appended, entered into a negotiation in the very teeth of an agreement in his own handwriting. There is also this further fact to be noticed, viz., that it is morally impossible that any person signing the agreement could not see the sum of money which was stipulated to be paid, that it was not £5, but £6. Before the signature there is written the words, "*The sum of six pounds sterling;*" and in figures, again, at the foot of the agreement, there most clearly appears £6. Again, looking to the terms of the agreement, it is equally impossible that any mistake or misapprehension could by possibility have occurred. "It is this day firmly agreed with James Cook and Edward Lewis, with Robert Roberts, master of the True Blue, of Aberdeen, to assist him to get the ship off the West Rocks, and to the port of Harwich, if required, for the sum of £6 sterling." A clearer agreement, or one more capable of being easily understood, has, I think, been seldom exhibited in this Court.

My conviction is, that it was most distinctly

derstood by the salvors upon the present occasion; and this conviction is strengthened when I look to the circumstances under which it was manifestly executed. Other smacks, it appears, were lying up at the time, able and willing to have rendered a similar assistance to this vessel; and the appearance of these smacks would render it most probable that the original salvors were desirous at once to close the bargain, and to secure the job to themselves; and the weather being moderate, they thought that, in the sum of £6, they could receive a sufficient reward for their services. Under the circumstances of the case, then, I am of opinion that the agreement is a valid agreement, and that it is binding not only upon Cook and Lewis, the immediate parties contracting with the master of the True Blue, but upon the whole of the crews of the two boats, the Aurora's Increase and the Sylvan. I have, therefore, no discretion but to reject the demands of these two vessels, their masters and crews.

With regard to the four other smacks,—by whom was it that they were employed, and was their employment indispensable?

Upon this part of the case there is, I must say, much in the statement of the salvors which excites considerable doubt of its accuracy. The result of my examination into such statement is to induce me to believe that the other salvors were engaged by Lewis and Cook against the will and inclination of the master of the True Blue, and for the purpose of effecting a service which Lewis and Cook had themselves undertaken to perform. I am therefore of opinion that the crews of these smacks, if they have any claim at all to be remunerated, must

1843.
27th July.
THE TRUE
BLUE.

1848.
27th July.
**THE TRUE
BLUE.**

resort to those individuals who employed them not to the owners of this vessel. I therefore pronounce for the tender, but I shall decline the costs.

THE FAMA.

Cause of damage by collision. Owners of the damaging vessel voluntarily taking a duly licensed pilot on board, under the provisions of the general Pilot Act, 6th G. IV., absolved from responsibility, the accident having occurred within the waters for which the pilot was licensed, and being entirely caused by the misconduct of the pilot alone.

IN this case, the brig Emma, on her voyage to Sicily to Southampton, was run foul of by the vessel in Falmouth Roads, upon the 25th of April. An action was entered for the amount of the damage sustained; and upon the 13th of July, the cause was heard before Trinity Masters, who pronounced that the collision was occasioned exclusively by the misconduct of the pilot who was in charge of the Fama at the time.

The Court directed the case to stand over for further consideration of the point whether the pilot on board the Fama was a licensed pilot under the provisions of the general Pilot Act, 6th G. IV. c. 125.

Addams, for the owners of the Fama, now admitted that the pilot was a licensed pilot, under the general Act, and was proceeding to argue in support of the owner's exemption under the authority of the decision in the case of *Lucey v. Ingram*, which was stopped by the Court.

Per Curiam.

I need not trouble you; I am quite satisfied not to dispose of the case when the Trinity Masters attended, because I was not aware by whom the pilot was licensed. If he had been licensed by a corporation or a company, under the provisions

f Parliament peculiarly referring to such
on, a difficulty might have arisen which
ve required further consideration ; but, as
ppears that the pilot was licensed by the
of the Trinity House, in conformity with
sions of the general Pilot Act, 6 G. IV.,
at the time of the collision he was actually
e waters for which he was licensed, the
is altogether removed. The case fairly
in the principle of the decision in the case
v. Ingram, by which it was determined
owners were absolved from liability where
ge was occasioned by the misconduct of a
harge, and acting in pursuance of the pro-
the Act, although not taken on board in
any of the compulsory clauses. The
in question was grounded upon the con-
of the whole statute, but more especially
rence to the 72nd section, which directs
ry pilot, whether licensed or to be licensed,
l, when not actually engaged in his capa-
lot, refuse or decline or wilfully delay to
or on board of, or take charge of any ship
requiring a pilot, and within the limits
in his license, shall be subject to certain
" The Court of Exchequer were of op-
t although it was not compulsory on the
employ such pilot, yet if he thought fit
such pilot was a pilot acting in pursu-
ie provisions of the Act, and consequently
the provisions of the 55th section. The
upon which their opinion rested was that
esirable, for the general safety of navi-
cases where the taking a pilot was not
ry, to encourage the masters of vessels to
•

1843.
27th July.
THE FAMA.

1843.
27th July.

The Fama.

receive them on board. The present case falls within that construction of the statute, and I must therefore pronounce that the owners of this vessel are exonerated, but I shall make no order for costs.

THE COLUMBINE.

*Apportionment
of a tender in a
cause of salvage.
Claim on behalf
of the owners of
the salving ves-
sels, to the
shares of the
apprentices who
were on board,
overruled.*

*Sembler—even
if a previous
contract had
been made to
that effect, such
contract would
be null and void,
as against equity
and public po-
licy.*

*An apportion-
ment to the ap-
prentices di-
rected.*

THIS was a question as to the apportionment of a tender, which had been accepted by the salvors, in a cause of salvage.

Per Curiam.

A tender of £600 has been accepted by the salvors in this suit, and an agreement has been made between the owners and crews of the two smacks, that the sum tendered shall be equally divided between them. The only point, therefore, which the Court is called upon to determine, is the apportionment of the two moieties amongst the owners and crews of the respective vessels. A claim has been asserted, by the owners of the two vessels, to the shares of the apprentices who were on board; but I cannot accede to the claim which is so made, and for the following reasons. In the first place, I conceive that even if a previous contract had been made to that effect, such contract would be null and void as against equity and public feeling, because it would be a very great discouragement to persons in the situation of apprentices, who are often the most efficient hands in vessels of this description; and secondly, it would be contrary to all justice to give the reward for personal risk and exertion, to persons who have not encountered the one or undertaken the other.

Having disposed of this point, I will now look to two cases, and divide the sum to be distributed the proportions in which I think the several ties are entitled. The Gratitude, it appears, the vessel which first boarded the Columbine ; it is admitted in the affidavits that the chief responsibility was undertaken by a person of the name of Head, who composed one of the crew. The merits of this individual are still more strongly justified in the certificate of the master of the Columbine, who states in the most unqualified terms benefit he derived from his exertions. I think, therefore, that he is entitled to receive an extra emolument ; and in addition to what he will otherwise receive, I shall award him £20. As regards the Gratitude, then, the apportionment which shall direct will be as follows :—To the master I will allot the sum of £50 ; to the two men on board, (Richard Head being one,) £40 each ; and to the apprentices, £20 each. The remaining sum £110 I shall direct to be paid to the owner of Gratitude.

With respect to the Two Sisters, the circumstances of the case are somewhat different, and it will be impossible to carry out the apportionment precisely on the principle adopted in the case of the Gratitude. The crew of the Two Sisters, it appears, consisted of a master, a mate, and three apprentices. The apportionment which I shall direct will be as follows :—To the master, £60 ; to the mate, £50 ; and to each of the apprentices, £20. The remaining £130 I shall decree to the owner of the Two Sisters ; and my reason for awarding a larger sum to the owner than I have given in the case of the Gratitude is this, viz., that there

1843.
27th July.
THE COLUMBINE.

1849.
27th July.
The COLUM-
BIA.

were three apprentices on board the Two Si but only two on board the Gratitude. Alt I am clearly of opinion that the owner is n titled to receive the whole benefit of the ap tices' exertions in a salvage service, yet I the nature of the apprentices' connexion wit vessel is to be taken into reasonable consider and, to a certain extent, the owner should be fited from that source.

THE ANN AND MARY.

1843.
4th November.

THIS was a suit promoted by the owners of the Lady Clinton, against the owners of a vessel called the Ann and Mary, for damage sustained by a collision on the 5th of December, 1842. An action at law had been brought by the owners of the Ann and Mary against the owners of the Lady Clinton, rising out of the same collision, and the trial had been held at Durham, during the Spring assizes, when verdict was found for the plaintiffs.

The Court was, in the present instance, assisted by two of the brethren of the Trinity House.

The case was argued by

Haggard and Twiss, for the Lady Clinton.

Queen's Advocate and Bayford, for the Ann and Mary.

DR. LUSHINGTON, (addressing the Trinity Masters). Gentlemen, you have had ample opportunity of reading all the papers and evidence in the cause, and you have also heard the question fully discussed by counsel at the bar; it will not, therefore, be necessary for me to trouble you with any detailed observations. There are, however, some points upon which I consider it my duty to address you. One peculiar feature in this case arises from the fact, that an action at common law has been brought by the owners of the Ann and Mary, the vessel proceeded against in this suit, against the owners of the Lady Clinton, on account of this very collision; that cause has been tried, and a verdict was found on that occasion for the plaintiffs. The first question then is, what weight

In doubtful circumstances, where there is a probability of collision, a vessel on the larboard tack, although close hauled, is bound to give way to a vessel upon the starboard tack, notwithstanding the latter may be sailing at the time with the wind free.

1843.
4th November.

THE
ANN AND MARY.

ought such a verdict to have on your and my minds? If this were a simple question of fact, and merely to be decided by the credit of the respective witnesses, without being examined with reference to nautical skill, undoubtedly the decision of a jury, if the judge approved of the verdict, ought to have considerable weight; it would not however (and it is not attempted on the present occasion to say that it would) be a bar to the action. We do not know, and we cannot know, what occurred at the trial; but of this we may feel assured, that, from the nature of the case, there would be great discussion as to the quarter from which the wind blew. With regard to the credibility of witnesses, it has been contended at the bar, that questions of fact are much better tried in a Court of Common Law, where the evidence is given *vivâ voce*, than in this Court, where it is given in writing. As far as my own experience goes, I feel disposed to say, that, in all ordinary cases of fact, much more reliance is to be placed upon *vivâ voce* than upon written evidence; and for this reason, that in the former case witnesses are openly examined and cross-examined: but it is a very different thing when a question is to be tried involving facts with which in all probability neither a judge nor a jury are conversant, and when consequently they cannot know whether the facts deposed to are reconcilable with the principles of admitted science. A witness, for example, may give evidence with great apparent truth and plausibility, and yet the facts he states may be inconsistent with possibility, or, according to well recognized principles, such facts may be incredible. I myself have known an instance of this; I have known a witness to depose that a ship was sailing within three or four points of the wind, a fact which would at once destroy his cre-

dit with persons of nautical experience, although it might not have the same effect in the minds of a judge and a jury. I must therefore say, with all due deference to the verdict of the jury, that it is not to be considered as binding upon our judgment in this particular case. I may now advert to the circumstances of the case in question:—this action is brought by the Lady Clinton against the Ann and Mary, and the first observation which I feel it right to make is, that as the misconduct of the Ann and Mary is charged to have been the cause of the damage, the parties proceeding are bound to make out their case. If then you should be of opinion, from the whole of the evidence, that there is a failure of proof on the part of the plaintiffs, you must decide in favour of the party proceeded against. With regard to the facts of the case, those which appear to me to be material lie in the narrowest compass. There is indeed great discrepancy in parts of the evidence on the one side and on the other, but I will first endeavour to point out those which are incontrovertible. The Lady Clinton was laden with coals, and was proceeding towards the port of Dover. She was on the starboard tack; her course was south-east, and, according to her statement, the wind was south-west or south-west by west; the two first of these facts is undenied, the third is controverted. On the other hand, the statement on behalf of the Ann and Mary is, she was in ballast, on the larboard tack, her course north by west, the wind west and by north. Now if the statement made on behalf of the owners of the Lady Clinton be true, I apprehend that there is no question whatever; indeed it is admitted at the bar, that if her statement as to the wind be correct, what she did on that occasion was perfectly right and proper; and then it would

1843.
4th November.

THE
ANN AND MARY.

1843.
4th November.

**THE
ANN AND MARY.**

follow, that the Ann and Mary, although she alter her course when she first described the Clinton, yet, as she did afterwards alter it by her helm down, was in error. Assuming this to be, as stated by the Lady Clinton, south-south-west by west, on descrying the Lady it was the duty of the Ann and Mary not to have her helm down, but to have kept her course; my own statement is, that, although she at first took course, she did just before the collision put her helm down. This brings the case to the point on which there has been so much discussion, namely, at what precise quarter in which the wind was; this evidence consists in the affidavits of the masters, the mates, the crews of the two vessels, and each side gives support of their respective statements. There are persons of respectability who give evidence on both sides, and some of whom were on the spot at the time; and there are also entries from various logbooks kept at different parts of the coast, and which are perhaps wholly reconcilable with each other, gentlemen, you, with your nautical knowledge, will be able to reconcile them. Now, certainly, I hold the opinion, so far as depends on the balance of credit on the one side or the other, that I cannot take myself to tell you that either party has not stated the truth according to their respective statements. It comes, therefore, very desirable that you should, if possible, come to a conclusion from the facts adduced in the case, or not contested, and without referring to the conflicting parts of the evidence. I am however, aware that the circumstances of this case do not furnish you with sufficient facts to enable you to do so. There do however appear to me to be two circumstances deserving of great consideration. I

mistaken ; if so, you, gentlemen, from your nautical judgment, will be able to show where the delusion exists. It is stated, and not denied, that the Lady Clinton, after the collision, made for the shore and came to anchor, and also that the other vessel proceeded on her voyage. Now if this had been stated in the original pleadings, namely, the fact that the Lady Clinton made for the shore on the larboard tack, it would have been incontrovertible evidence that the wind could not be from north by west. It has not however been so averred, and I request you, therefore, not to rely in the slightest degree on any statements in the affidavits that the Lady Clinton was on the larboard tack when she came to an anchor ; but you will consider whether the fact of her having proceeded to anchor and having approached the land, can lead to the conclusion that the wind could not have been to the north by west. There is another circumstance which weighs strongly on my mind. It has been contended on the part of the owners of the Ann and Mary, that there was a want of a good look out, and negligence on the part of the master and crew of the Lady Clinton. I cannot however discover on the face of the evidence any circumstances which will support that averment ; the only fact relied on for that purpose is, that the Lady Clinton, when she first descried the Ann and Mary, was not able to discover whether she was going the one way or the other. It is stated on the part of the Lady Clinton, that she first descried the Ann and Mary at some distance off ; and that is quite consistent with the statement, that at that distance she was not able at first to discover which way the other vessel was standing ; but it is also stated, and not denied, that as soon as she did discover the precise course the other vessel

1843.
4th November.
THE
ANN AND MARY.

1843.
4th November.
**THE
ANN AND MARY.**

was proceeding on, the master of the Lady Clinton caused a *lanthorn* to be exhibited over the lee bow for the purpose of giving notice of his position. This is an act at least showing that he was on the alert whether the light was blown out, or went out by accident, is a circumstance which does not detract from the intention, although the Ann and Mary may not have derived the benefit of the intended warning. As it is, I see no reason for assuming that a proper look out was not kept on board this vessel. What did she do, as soon as she discovered the real state of the circumstances? She put her helm a-port. On the part of the Ann and Mary, it is stated, that her crew saw the Lady Clinton one quarter of a mile off. Now this is a circumstance which, if it be true, and we assume it to be true, strikes me thus; if the master of the Clinton, as soon as he discovered the position of the Ann and Mary, did put his helm to port, as if the master of the Ann and Mary, who saw the Lady Clinton one quarter of a mile off, did keep his course, until the moment before the collision, how was it possible that the two vessels did not go clear of each other? I cannot think, on this supposition, that the case can be as represented by the owners of the Ann and Mary. Now, gentlemen, if the wind be, as represented by the Lady Clinton, her measures were correct, and it necessarily follows, that, if you believe this to have been so, you will give your judgment for her; if, on another supposition, the wind was favourable for both vessels, if the wind was somewhere between west and by north, and south-west by west, then the Lady Clinton was on the starboard tack, and the Ann and Mary was on the larboard; in that case also I apprehend that you will pronounce in favour of the Lady Clinton. But you must also take into yo

consideration a third state of the case ; supposing you to be of opinion, and to come to the conclusion, that the wind was as represented by the Ann and Mary, did that vessel pursue a proper course, on descrying the other vessel coming on in a straight direction, or almost in a straight direction ? You will consider whether, under this state of circumstances, according to nautical principles, although she might be close hauled, and the other vessel might be sailing free, the Ann and Mary ought not to have pursued measures different from what she did. You will take all these circumstances into your consideration, and give me your opinion as to what was the cause of the collision.

1843.
4th November.
THE
ANN AND MARY.

The Trinity Masters.

The Ann and Mary, by her own statement, saw the Lady Clinton one quarter of a mile off, nearly right a-head, or a little on the lee bow. The Ann and Mary was close hauled on the larboard tack. Although it was not a dark night, it must have been difficult to judge whether the approaching vessel was standing close to the wind or a little off; it was therefore the duty of the Ann and Mary to bear away, as is the established law under doubtful circumstances for all vessels close hauled on the larboard tack to do. We are of opinion that the Ann and Mary was wrong in what she did ; a vessel close hauled on the larboard tack must give way, she never ought to have put her helm a-lee.

The Court.

Pronounce for damages and costs.

The Trinity Masters.

We beg to observe to this Court, that the golden

^{1843.}
4th November. rule so long established must be strictly adhered to; it is this, that the vessel on the larboard tack is to give way, and the vessel on the starboard tack to hold on. And the new rule which has lately been made for steam vessels, namely, each to put the helm a-port, under all doubtful circumstances, assimilates with it. The vessel on the starboard tack puts her helm a-port to keep her wind, and the vessel on the larboard tack does the same to bear away. The same rule now applies to sailing as well as to steam vessels, and if it be strictly adhered to, there will not be one thousandth part of the accidents which now occur.

In the course of the argument of this case it was proposed to read the affidavits of two of the elder brethren of the Trinity House, who had been examined on the trial at law, stating their opinions on the case, arising from what they heard on the trial.

Per Curiam.

These affidavits may be classed under one of two heads; either they contain evidence of what was said or done on the trial, or they are the opinion of nautical men with regard to evidence, on nautical points, given in the course of a trial. I have no hesitation in saying, that I can receive no evidence of this nature as to what occurred at a trial; most assuredly no partial statement of what occurred on that occasion could in the slightest degree influence my decision on the present question. If I wanted information on any point connected with the trial, the notes of the learned judge are the only authority to which I should resort. The opinions of nautical men on a question of seamanship, indeed of men of science on points of science generally, when a clear statement of

the whole of the facts has been laid before them, is admissible evidence in this as well as other courts; but in this case I am assisted by gentlemen of great skill and experience in nautical matters, and it would be most inconvenient, and injurious to the ends of justice, if in cases, where the Court always has the benefit of, and derives the greatest assistance from, the opinions on nautical points of the Trinity Masters, the proceedings were allowed to be incumbered by any evidence by way of opinion on such points. These affidavits must on both grounds be rejected.

1843.
4th November.
THE
ANNAND MARY.

THE TRAVELLER.

IN this case the Yarm, a small schooner of forty-three tons, whilst proceeding from Bridlington to London with a cargo of oats, was run down on the night of the 4th January by the schooner the Traveller.

The collision took place when the two vessels were off the Spurn Light, and the schooner, the Yarm, was so severely damaged, that she sunk shortly afterwards. The present action was by plea and proof, and the case was argued before Trinity Masters by—

24th November.

It is the duty of the vessel on the larboard tack to give way to a vessel on the starboard tack at once, without considering whether the other vessel be one or more points to leeward. Damage pronounced for.

Addams and Robinson, for the Yarm.

Queen's Advocate and Harding, for the Traveller.

Per Curiam.

Gentlemen, the question to be decided in this case is, which of the two vessels, under the circumstances detailed in the evidence ought to have kept the wind, and which ought to have given way. The facts of the case are unfortunately embarrassed by great contradictions in the evidence on both sides; and with

1843.
24th November.

**THE
TRAVELLER.**

respect to the statement which is set up on behalf of the Yarm, the vessel proceeding in the cause, there is, you will observe, a discrepancy between the plea originally given in and the affidavits of the witnesses who have been produced in its support. There is also some discrepancy in the evidence of the witnesses themselves. This circumstance has been much commented upon in the argument at the bar: but having carefully attended to the observations of the learned counsel, I am bound to tell you that in my opinion the discrepancy is not such as would justify us in discrediting either the case set up by the Yarm or the evidence of the witnesses. In proceedings of this kind it not unfrequently happens that when the original statement is given in, there are some points which are not clearly understood by the practitioners in the cause; hence it arises that the statement in the pleadings will occasionally be at variance with the evidence. In the present instance, in forming your opinion, you will have to look to the evidence and not to the original statement. With regard to the discrepancy between the witnesses themselves, I would observe that in all courts of law a discrepancy in the evidence upon non-essential points is no conclusive disparagement to the integrity of the witnesses. Where, on the contrary, the testimony of the witnesses strictly coincides in all minute particulars, there is much greater reason for disbelieving them, and not for giving them credit, because the probability is that the story has been shaped in concert, and that they have determined beforehand that they will agree even in the most minute particular.

Let us now, gentlemen, consider the facts of the case as they are set forth on the one side and the other. The statement of the Yarm is, that she was

proceeding from Bridlington to London with a cargo of oats, the wind being W.S.W., and her course lying S. with a starboard tack on board ; that shortly after passing the Spurn Light she perceived the Traveller approaching, upon which she kept her course, and hailed the Traveller to put her helm a-weather ; but the Traveller paid no attention to her hailing, but kept her course. Such is the statement in plea which has been given in on behalf of the Yarm. In the evidence of her witnesses, however, the collision is attributed not merely to the Traveller having kept on her course, but also to her having put her helm to leeward, so as to come more directly in contact with the Yarm. Now according to my view of the case, as I have already observed, although this is to a certain extent a departure from the averment in the plea, if the matter rested here, I do not think that the discrepancy between the statement in plea and the evidence of the Yarm's witnesses could materially affect the merits of the question to be decided ; and for this reason—that if it was the duty of the Traveller to give way, it is of no importance whether she omitted to give way or kept her helm to leeward ; in either case it is obvious that she would have been equally in fault.

Let us now look to the case which is set up on behalf of the vessel proceeded against. After stating that she was proceeding on the larboard tack and in a north-westerly course, the wind being W. by N. to W.N.W., she further alleges, that when the two vessels were approaching each other, the Yarm was hailed to go to the windward. This is an important averment, as showing that, in the judgment of the persons on board the Traveller, it was incumbent upon the Yarm to give way, and her own duty was to keep her course. With respect to the relative position of the

1843.
24th November.

THE
TRAVELLER.

1843.
24th November.

THE
TRAVELLER.

two vessels at the time, there is a contradiction in ~~the~~ two statements. On the part of the Traveller it ~~is~~ averred, that when first descried the Yarm was about two points on the lee-bow of the Traveller. On ~~the~~ part of the Yarm the statement is of a contrary nature. I do not think it necessary to enter into a minute consideration as to which of these statements is correct; and for this reason—in the first place, it would be most extremely difficult to ascertain the point from the evidence before us; and secondly, I apprehend that it has been distinctly laid down over and over again that when two vessels on opposite tacks are approaching each other, and there is a probability of a collision, it is the duty of the vessel on the larboard tack to give way at once, without considering whether the other vessel be one or more points to leeward.

There is one other circumstance to which I will advert before I conclude my observations. It is admitted by the witnesses on behalf of the Traveller, that upon the night when the collision took place a vessel might have been seen a mile off. The night therefore could not have been a dark night. It is also further admitted on the part of the Traveller, that when she first descried the Yarm, there was ample time to have put her helm to windward; but that according to her judgment this was not a proper measure to be adopted, but that she was bound to keep her course. Gentlemen, you will have the goodness to take all these circumstances into your consideration, and to favour me with your opinion whether you think that the Traveller is to blame.

Trinity Masters.
The Traveller ought to have given way.

Per Curiam.

In that case I pronounce for the damage of course,
with the costs.

1843.
24th November.
THE
TRAVELLER.

Both this and other decisions which have taken place are very important with respect to vessels engaged in the occupation in which these vessels were employed, as establishing the principle that at night it is the duty of the vessel on the larboard tack to give way to a vessel on the starboard tack, even although the latter should be sailing with the wind free.

THE VIRGIL. WILSON.

5th December.

IN this case the Virgil, a brig of 237 tons burthen, bound from Archangel to Bristol, with a cargo of deals, battens, &c., at about eight o'clock p. m. of the night of 6th October, came into collision with the sloop Jean, which, from the damage she received, shortly afterwards sunk, her crew being saved on board the Virgil. An action was entered in the sum of 500*l.*

The act on petition in substance pleaded, that the sloop Jean, of 49 tons or thereabouts, was in the prosecution of a voyage from Hartlepool to Dundee with a cargo of coals, and about half-past seven p. m. of the evening on which the collision occurred, she was off Coquet Island, the Coquet light bearing W., distant about three miles and half, the wind N. W. by W., with a stiff breeze, the sea being smooth and the night dark; that the said sloop was on the larboard tack upon a wind steering about N., and a good look out was being kept on board, when the brig pro-

Masters of vessels navigating at night, are bound to use all proper precautions for avoiding the chances of collision.

A vessel sailing upon a dark and foggy night with her top-mast studding sails set, condemned in the damage sued for.

1843.
5th December.
The VIRGIL.

ceeded against was observed on the sloop's starboard bow, having her topmast studding sails set, steering S. half W., and about two ships length distant; that said brig was instantly hailed by the mate of the said sloop, but that she returned no answer, and continued her course without any alteration; the consequence of which was that she struck the sloop, which neither did nor could do any thing to avoid the collision, with such force as to cut her down to the water's edge, and the sloop shortly afterwards went down head forwards and was totally lost.

The case set up by the owners of the Virgil in the answer to the act on petition was to the effect that a good look out was kept on board the Virgil, but that in consequence of the state of the night, which was described as hazy and very dark, it was impossible for the persons on board the Virgil to see the sloop, which being small and deeply laden, and sailing close to the wind, there was merely the thickness of her masts to form a loom; that no hailing was heard on board the brig, and that the said brig, notwithstanding the greater size of her loom, was not seen from the sloop until the moment of the collision. The answer to the act then further denied that the accident was occasioned by any neglect or misconduct of the persons on board the Virgil, but was wholly and entirely the result of inevitable accident owing to the darkness of the weather, and that admissions to this effect had been made and repeated by the master of the Jean subsequent to the collision in question.

These declarations were, as a matter of course, counterpleaded and denied in a rejoinder on behalf of the Jean.

The case was argued by—
Haggard and Robinson, for the Virgil.

dams and Harding, for the Jean.

1843.
5th December.
THE VIRGIL.

Per Curiam.

lemen.—It rarely happens in cases of this
ption that the Court can place any safe reliance
declarations or admissions purporting to have
nade, *recenti facto*, by the masters or the crews
ier of the vessels in the cause. Where such de-
ions are pleaded on the one side, it almost uni-
y occurs that they are counterpleaded and denied
e other; and in the conflict of evidence which ne-
ily arises, it is impossible for the Court to ascer-
with any accuracy or satisfaction to itself, to
side a preferable credence should be given.
ssing therefore from consideration in the present
ce certain declarations which have been so much
sed in the arguments of the learned counsel,
endeavour as shortly as possible to bring under
notice the real facts of the case as they are repre-
l to have taken place previously to and at the
of the collision in question. The statement on
f of the Jean, the vessel that was run down, is
y to this effect: She was, it is alleged, proceed-
orthwards on the larboard tack, with the wind
. by W., and about half-past seven in the even-
f the 6th of October last, and when about three
or three miles and a half off the Coquet Island
she descried the Virgil, the vessel proceeded
st, approaching on the larboard bow. It is fur-
alleged on her behalf, that being on a wind it
totally impossible for her to change her course,
hat the other vessel ran into her and sunk her.
is the statement on the part of the Jean; a short
ent it is true, but one that in my view of it is
sufficient, and which fixes the locality of the

1843.
5th December.
THE VIRGIL.

accident beyond all question of doubt. I will now advert to the defence which is set up by the Virgil, and in so doing I must observe that this defence is, in some respects, of an extraordinary description. After stating her own voyage and the place where the collision occurred, the answer of the Virgil simply alleges that the night was very dark and hazy, and that a good look out was kept by the watch on deck. Is it not extraordinary that in this answer, which is her defence, and which ought to contain the whole of that defence, there is not to be found one single averment as to the wind—as to the rate at which the vessel was sailing—as to the tack she was on—as to the course she was pursuing—as to the sails that were set—or as to which bow was struck? Not one single averment I repeat respecting any of these matters is to be found in the answer to the act on petition. A circumstance I must say which is calculated not only to excite a considerable surprise in the mind of the Court, but to put a very considerable difficulty in the way of the Virgil herself. The practice of the Court requires that all the essential particulars of the defence should be set forth in the pleadings in the first instance; and if this Court was to sanction the attempt which has been made in the present instance to supply the omission of these matters in plea, by importing them into the affidavits of the witnesses, great detriment and injustice must be done towards the adverse parties in the suit, by the introduction of matter which they could never have the opportunity of meeting.

Such then being the substance of the case set up by the Virgil, it is obvious that her defence is rested upon a case of inevitable accident; in other words, that the night was dark and hazy, and that she had not the power to avoid the collision. Now let us for

a moment consider what is meant by the term inevitable accident. In my apprehension, an inevitable accident in point of law is this, viz. that which the party charged with the offence could not possibly prevent by the exercise of ordinary care, caution and maritime skill. If a vessel charged with having occasioned a collision should be sailing at the rate of eight or nine miles an hour, when she ought to have proceeded only at the speed of three or four, it will be no valid excuse for the master to aver that he could not prevent the accident at the moment it occurred, if he could have used measures of precaution, that would have rendered the accident less probable; it may undoubtedly be important that a voyage should be completed in the most speedy manner, but such speed must be combined with safety to other vessels sailing in an opposite course. This is the doctrine of the Courts of Admiralty in cases of this kind, and by this doctrine you must be guided in forming your opinion upon the present occasion. Let us then for a moment consider in conclusion, how and in what degree the application of this doctrine bears upon the defence which has been set up by the owner of the vessel proceeded against.

Now it appears to me, there are only two points on which it is possible to fix upon the Virgil any want of propriety of conduct, viz. that she did not keep a good look-out, or that she was carrying a greater press of sail than she ought to have carried under the circumstances of the case. Upon the first point, looking to the evidence before me, I am not prepared to affirm negatively that a good look-out was not kept. With respect to the more important matter, whether she was or was not carrying more sail than under the circumstances she ought to have car-

1843.
5th December.
THE VIRGIL.

1843.
5th December.
The Virgil.

ried, it is to be noticed that she clearly had the wind free, and that at the time of the collision she was sailing with her studding sail set; it is also to be borne in mind that the night is admitted to have been dark and hazy. Under these circumstances gentlemen, then it remains for you to consider whether the Virgil has or has not so conducted herself with respect to the quantity of sail she was carrying that in point of fact she rendered the accident more probable than it would otherwise have been.

Trinity Masters were of opinion, that, looking to the courses of the two vessels, the state of the wind and more especially to the darkness of the night, the Virgil ought to have been under more easy sail, and was consequently to blame.

Damage pronounced for, with costs.

12th December.

EBENEZER. VARWELL.

A vessel running free with a fair wind, and carrying her square sail, top-mast studding sail, fore and aft mainsail, and gaff topsail set, the weather being dark and thick and the night foggy. Dismissed from further observance of justice in the suit upon the ground of inevitable accident.

THE act on petition in this case set forth that the Concord, of the burthen of 200 tons, sailed from the port of Newcastle, bound to the port of London, with a cargo of coals, on the morning of the 19th of May last. That the said vessel proceeded on her voyage without any material occurrence till midnight of the 22nd, when she was tacked to the southward, the Dudgeon light vessel bearing S. by E. half E., distant about seven or eight miles, the weather clear and moderate, the wind E.S.E., and the said vessel, with two courses set, steering close to the wind on the larboard tack at the rate of about three knots an hour, not being able to lay her course. That at a quarter-past one, a. m. the next day, the 23rd of May, the weather began to darken and became ver-

thick, so that objects could not be discerned at more than two ships' length off, whereupon one of the watch, who was forward, began and continued blowing a horn, and another of the said watch continued keeping a good look-out. That about half-past one of the same day, a vessel was perceived right a-head of the Concord, but rather on the starboard bow, and steering directly for her, whereupon the helm of the Concord was instantly put hard a-lee, in order to deaden the blow, and thereby save life if not property, it being impossible to have avoided a collision either by putting her helm up or by any other means, in consequence of the two vessels being so near, and the rapid rate at which they were then approaching each other. That before the Concord at all answered her helm, or altered her position, the said vessel, which proved to be the Ebenezer, the vessel proceeded against, ran into the Concord's starboard bow, doing her such damage as caused her to sink about an hour and twenty minutes after receiving the blow. That the Ebenezer, when so discovered, was running northwards with a fair wind, and had a square sail, topmast studding sail, fore and aft mainsail and gaff topsail set, the said square sail being very deep, and preventing anything being seen a-head of her. That there was no notice given of her proximity to any other vessel towards which she was running, and although hailed from the Concord, such hailing was ineffectual. That the said collision was entirely attributable to those on board the Ebenezer, in carrying such an improper press of sail on a thick foggy night, and in the fair-way course of coasting vessels, without the necessary precautions taken, and without a good look-out being kept on board.

The answer to the act on the part of the Ebenezer

1843.
12th December.

THE
EBENEZER.

1843.
12th December.

THE
EBENEZER.

admitted that the Concord might have been sailing close to the wind on the larboard tack at the rate of three knots an hour, and that she was unable to lay her course; it also admitted that at the time of the collision the weather became very thick, but denied that a vessel could at such time be seen at a distance of two cables' length off, or that the sound of a fog horn was heard by any person on board the Ebenezer as coming from the Concord. It was also further admitted that the Ebenezer was running northward with a fair wind and a square sail, topmast studding sail, fore and aft mainsail, and gaff topsail set; and that at the time those on board the Concord saw the Ebenezer, the two vessels were so near that it was perfectly impossible for either the Concord or the Ebenezer to avoid the collision, notwithstanding the said Concord might have put her helm hard a-lee. The answer then in conclusion alleged that a good look-out was kept on board the Ebenezer, the captain sounding the fog horn almost without intermission. That the sails which were set in the said schooner were not larger or more numerous than such as would be used by any person commanding a schooner of the Ebenezer's tonnage in such weather; and from the number of vessels, upwards of 400, in the North Sea at the time, had the said schooner carried less sail than she actually carried, she would have been in danger of being run down by some other vessels sailing in the same direction. That the collision was not at all attributable to the mismanagement of the persons on board the Ebenezer as assigned, but entirely attributable to the extreme thickness of the fog, and that no human power or skill could prevent the loss that occurred.

The case was argued before Trinity Masters by
Addams and *Robinson*, for the owners of the Con-

1843.
12th December.
THE
EBENEZER.

cord.

Haggard and *R. Phillimore*, for the Ebenezer.

Per Curiam.—DR. LUSHINGTON.

Gentlemen, In this case I must call your attention to one or two observations in the first instance, which I conceive are of importance both as regards the result of the case itself and the future practice of the Court in cases of this kind. You are well aware, I presume, from the experience you have had in these cases, that all our proceedings are commenced by what is termed an act on petition, in which the party proceeding in the cause is supposed to set forth the whole grounds upon which he rests his case. You are also aware, I presume, that the answer of the party defendant in the suit ought to contain all the grounds of his defence, and not only so, but also any blame which he deems imputable to the party proceeding in the cause. Now this is of the utmost importance, and ought to be distinctly understood; and I hold it indispensable in this case and all others that we should consider the charge on the one side and on the other upon what is originally stated in the pleadings in the cause, and if affidavits are produced in this or other causes at variance with these statements, or extraneous to them, such affidavits are to be rejected, as well as the arguments which are attempted to be drawn from them.

Having thus directed your attention to the principle upon which these proceedings are conducted, I will now briefly point out to you what was the ori-

1843.
12th December.

THE
EBENEZER.

ginal case set up on behalf of the Concord, the vessel proceeding in the cause.

It is alleged on her behalf, that at a quarter-past one a.m. of the 23rd of May last, the weather began to darken and become very thick, so that objects could not be discerned more than two cables distant. That about that period of time a vessel was observed right a-head of her, and steering directly towards her a little on the larboard bow. That in order to save the vessel, by deadening the blow, and thereby in all probability to save the lives of those on board, the helm of the Concord was instantly put hard a-lee, but that in consequence of the two vessels being so near to each other, and the rate at which they were so respectively sailing, it was impossible to avoid a collision, and before the Concord at all answered her helm or altered her position, the vessel, which proved to be the Ebenezer, the vessel proceeded against, ran into the Concord's starboard bow.

You will here observe, that the state of the weather, the distance at which the respective vessels could be seen, and the measures adopted by the Concord, are distinctly set forth. You will also observe, in a subsequent part of the act on petition, that the blame is expressly imputed to the Ebenezer, in having more sails set than she ought to have carried under the circumstances, and that she did not keep a good lookout.

This being the case set up in the act on petition by the party proceeding in the cause, it is obvious that the owners of the Ebenezer, the vessel proceeded against, must have been cognizant of the case which was made against them, because this act on petition, by the practice of the Court, is invariably delivered to the opposing parties in the suit, to shape their de-

fence accordingly. It was therefore perfectly competent for the owners of the Ebenezer, in the present instance (had any such ground of defence existed), to have said that the blame was imputable to the Concord in thus putting *her helm hard a-lee*; but no such charge is made upon the present occasion. I shall not, therefore, ask your opinion whether the Concord was to blame in so putting her helm a-lee, because it is not a point made in the case, although the counsel for the Ebenezer has adverted to it in the argument.

Let us now see how the case stands with respect to the Ebenezer, the vessel proceeded against. The principal blame imputed to her is, that she was carrying too great a press of sail under the circumstances of the case, "running with a fair wind, and having her square sail, topmast studding sail fore and aft, main-sail and gaff top sail set, and the said square sail being very deep." Her course it appears was N.W., the wind being E.S.E., consequently she was free.

Now, gentlemen, this being the state of the case, you will have to consider whether the measure adopted by the Concord, in putting her helm a-lee, was a right measure or not. With regard to the sails, which are admitted to have been set by the Ebenezer, I cannot pretend to form an opinion whether it was proper and justifiable or otherwise; but with respect to the night, I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that it was very dark, and in this opinion I rely upon the evidence of James Mitchell, who, it is stated, belongs to the floating light vessel, distant about eight miles from the place where the collision took place, and who describes the night in the following terms: "that the density of the fog during the whole of the said last-mentioned time, which was the time of the collision,

1843.
12th December.

THE
EBENEZER.

1843.
12th December.
The Ebenezer.

was such as rendered it impossible for any object whatever being seen beyond the distance of 100 feet from the said light vessel."

Now, gentlemen, without pretending to ascertain whether at the time of the collision a vessel could be seen 100 feet or 70 feet off, a circumstance that must so entirely depend upon the size of the vessel and other circumstances, I apprehend that it may be safely taken for granted that the night in question was exceedingly dark and misty. This being so, it will be for you to consider and determine whether or no, under the circumstances, you are satisfied that the Ebenezer, in carrying the sail she is admitted to have carried, was under a greater press of sail than she ought to have been. I will only notice, in conclusion, that it is stated on behalf of the Ebenezer, as a reason for her carrying the sail she did, that a very large quantity of vessels were immediately in her wake, and that she carried the sail in question for the purpose of avoiding the possibility of any of the vessels running into her. This is a matter entirely for your consideration; and taking into your consideration all the circumstances of the case, you will oblige me by stating whether the collision in question was occasioned by the default of either and which of the vessels, or whether it is to be attributed solely and entirely to inevitable accident.

Trinity Masters.

We are of opinion that the Concord did right in not porting her helm immediately that she saw the Ebenezer, and under the circumstances of the case, particularly looking to the weather, that no blame attaches to the Ebenezer, but that the collision was the result of inevitable accident.

Per Cur.—In that case I pronounce against the damage sued for.

Dr. Haggard.—With costs?

1843.
12th December.

THE
EBENEZER.

Per Cur.—No; under the circumstances I am not inclined to give costs. I think there were a great many difficulties in the case which might fairly have misled both parties.

LONDON PACKET. BRITIA

12th December.

THIS was a cause of damage promoted by Robert Priest, of the port of Hull, and others, the owners of the vessel Hull, against the ship or vessel London Packet, her tackle, apparel, &c.

The circumstances of the case as set forth in the act on petition were to the following effect: it was stated, that at four o'clock a. m. of the 1st of June last, the brig Hull, of the burthen of 116 tons, sailed from Middlesbro', in the county of York, bound on a voyage to London, with a cargo of coals, and at seven a. m. arrived, in tow of a steam tug, at the fair-way buoy at the mouth of the river Tees, when the steam tug was cast off, the wind at such time being E.S.E. with light breezes. That upon the steam tug being cast off, the brig, in consequence of the head wind, stood to the northward on the starboard tack, and continued on such tack till noon, when she was tacked to the southward on the larboard tack, on which tack she remained until four o'clock p. m., when she was again tacked to the N.E. on the starboard tack, and continued upon such tack until half-past seven p. m., when the wind gradually died away, so that at half-past eight she became wholly becalmed; and it being

The application of the Trinity House regulation with respect to two vessels meeting each other, the one upon the larboard and the other upon the starboard tack, depends upon the presumption that the two vessels are directly opposing each other, and is not intended to apply when the heads of the respective vessels are lying in different directions.

1843.
12th December.
THE LONDON
PACKET.

ebb tide at the time, and also in consequence of the swell of the sea, the brig was thrown athwart the tide with her head to the N. and E., her helm being lashed a-lee. That she remained in this position until eleven p. m., when a light air having sprung up from the southward, her yards were braced sharp up on the starboard tack, her helm was put hard to starboard, and her head brought up to the wind ; but notwithstanding, the said brig, for want of sufficient wind, was still unmanageable. That about ten minutes past eleven p. m., the night being clear, a schooner, which proved to be the London Packet, bound for Sunderland, in ballast trim, was seen by the watch on deck about a quarter of a mile off coming down upon her from the southward, with all her sail set, and bringing with her a breeze from the S.S.W.. That the schooner was immediately hailed to keep clear of the brig, but she notwithstanding kept her course and ran a-board the said brig. That the damage was entirely occasioned by the neglect of the persons on board the schooner, and that the brig, by reason of the premises, could do nothing to avoid the collision, being still unmanageable, by reason of not answering her helm, and having her head sails shivering in the wind.

On behalf of the London Packet it was pleaded that she set sail from Rye upon the 28th of May bound to Sunderland, with a cargo of oak plank and timber, and upon the 1st of June, about half-past eleven o'clock, she was crossing the mouth of the Tees, with the wind moderate from the S.W. by W. and all her sails set except the studding sails. That the night was fine, but the weather was hazy, and no moon up. That I. B., the master, being upon deck and upon the look-out, observed a brig, which proved

to be the Hull, the vessel proceeding in the cause, a short distance off, on the larboard bow, the schooner standing a course N.N.W. half W. That the helm of the schooner was thereupon immediately put to port, and she bore away two points of the compass. That the helm of the brig was continued a-starboard, and she bore down upon the schooner with all sails set and full. That, as the two vessels neared each other, the helm of the schooner was put hard a-port, and so continued until the collision took place. That the master of the schooner hailed the brig to port her helm, but notwithstanding she continued to bear down upon the schooner, and that the accident was entirely imputable to the misconduct of the brig, in so keeping her helm a-starboard, &c.

The Court was assisted by Trinity Masters, and the case was argued by

Addams and Robinson, for the Hull.

Haggard and Twiss, for the London Packet.

Per Curiam.

The learned Judge having adverted in detail to the facts of the case as set forth in the pleadings, proceeded to address the Trinity Masters to the following effect: Now, gentlemen, I wish particularly to direct your attention to the statement of the Hull, the vessel proceeding in the cause, because you will be able to judge whether it is true in point of fact, and whether the measures adopted on the one side and on the other were the correct and proper measures to be pursued under the circumstances. The statement of the Hull is, that her yards were braced sharp up on the larboard tack, that her helm was put hard to starboard, with her head to the S.E.; and being in this position,

1843.
12th December.
THE LONDON
PACKET.

1843.
12th December.
THE LONDON
PACKET.

the schooner, the London Packet, the vessel proceeded against, came down upon her with all her sails set, and with a breeze from the S.S.W.; it is also further stated, that at the period of the collision the breeze had not reached the Hull, and that in point of fact she was in an unmanageable condition and could do nothing.

On the other side it was admitted that the wind at the time was S.W. and by W., and that the course of the London Packet was N.N.W. half W.; the London Packet therefore, you will perceive, had the wind in her favour. It is further admitted on behalf of the London Packet, that, perceiving the helm of the brig to be a-starboard, the helm of the London Packet was put to port, and the master of the schooner hailed the person on board the Hull to put her helm a-port likewise, but that she continued to starboard her helm, and came sheer on into the bows of the schooner.

Gentlemen, great reliance and much stress has been placed by the counsel for the London Packet upon the fact that the helm of that vessel was ported as stated, and a great deal has been said upon the rule laid down by the Trinity House with respect to vessels meeting each other, the one on the larboard, the other on the starboard tack.

Gentlemen, that rule has been recognized and adopted over and over again in this Court, and I hope it will never be departed from in any case where it applies.

The question however arises, does this rule apply to the immediate circumstances of the case before us? In my humble judgment it does not, and for this reason, viz. that the application of the rule in question depends, I apprehend, upon the presumption that the two vessels are directly opposing each other, and is

not intended to apply where the heads of the respective vessels are lying in different directions.

If therefore you believe the statement of the Hull, that she was lying with her head to the S.E., and that the course of the London Packet, as stated by herself, was N.N.W. half W., it is obvious that the two vessels, prior to the collision, were not approaching with their heads opposing each other.

If this be so, a different consideration applies with respect to the course pursued by the London Packet, whether she ought to have ported her helm or not. This point, gentlemen, I must refer to your nautical experience; and I will also request you to give me your opinion, whether the brig under the circumstances could have done any thing to avoid the accident.

The Trinity Masters were of opinion that the London Packet had a fair wind and commanded steerage way, and that had she continued her course instead of porting her helm, she would have passed to windward of the brig; that in attempting to cross the brig by porting her helm she did wrong, and brought about the collision.

Damage pronounced for.

THE FORTITUDE. DOUGLASS.

THIS was a cause civil and maritime, promoted by the mortgagees of forty-eight sixty-fourth parts or shares of the vessel, respecting certain claims of the said mortgagees under a deed of mortgage, bearing date 4th August, 1841.

It appeared that T. Humphreys, the owner of the forty-eight sixty-fourth parts in question, having

*1843.
12th December.*

*THE LONDON
PACKET.*

20th December.

Construction of
the third section
of the statute 3
& 4 Vict. c. 65.
The enabling
power conferred
upon the Court
by the statute
does not extend
to all questions
arising out of a
deed of mort-

1843.
20th December.

The
FORTITUDE.
gage, but is
confined to the
ship itself being
mortgaged.

mortgaged his said shares to the mortgagees as a security for his banking transactions, the ship nevertheless remained in the possession and under the management of the owners, and in the month of October, 1841, sailed under the command of J. Douglass, also part owner, on a voyage from London to South Australia, and other parts in the China Seas, and back to England. During the voyage T. H., the mortgagor, became a bankrupt, and the ship returned to London with a valuable cargo on board, Douglass, the master, being at such time the only solvent owner of the said ship. The freight for the transportation of the cargo was duly paid by the consignees to Douglass, the master, who disposed of the larger portion thereof in the liquidation of his own wages as master and the liabilities of the ship during the voyage. Upon the return of the ship, actions were commenced in this Court for wages on behalf of the mariners, and these actions were still pending upon the 2d July, 1841, when a principal action was also entered on behalf of the mortgagees, claiming forty-eight sixty-fourth shares of the gross freight so paid into the master's hands.

The warrant as against the freight was executed by the arrest of the cargo, and bail was given on behalf of Douglass, the master, and the consignees of the cargo in the sum of £2000. An appearance to the action was also given on their behalf, under protest.

The act on petition in support of the protest, after setting forth the circumstances of the case as stated above, further alleged that, by an act of parliament of the 3 & 4 Vict. c. 65, intituled "An Act to improve the Practice and extend the Jurisdiction of the High Court of Admiralty of England," it is by the third section of the said act enacted in the words following,

to wit, "And be it enacted, that after the passing of this act, whenever any ship or vessel shall be under arrest by process issuing from the said High Court of Admiralty, or the proceeds of any ship or vessel having been so arrested shall have been brought into the registry of the said Court, in either such case the said Court shall have free jurisdiction to take cognizance of all claims and causes of action of any persons in respect of any mortgage of such ship or vessel, and to decide any suit instituted by any such person in respect of any such claims or causes of action respectively;" and that by the fourth section of the said act it is further enacted in the words following, "And be it enacted, that the said Court of Admiralty shall have jurisdiction to decide all questions as to the title or ownership of any such ship or vessel, or the proceeds thereof remaining in the registry owing in any cause of possession, salvage, damage, wages or bottomry, which shall be instituted in the said Court after the passing of this act;" that the jurisdiction given to the Court of Admiralty by the said two sections of the act in respect to the claims of mortgagees is confined to the ownership of any ship or vessel, or the proceeds thereof; and that no jurisdiction whatever is given to the said Court to adjudicate upon the title or ownership of mortgagees to the freight or earnings of any ship or vessel, much less to permit mortgagees to commence a principal action in the said Court against the freight or earnings of any ship or vessel; that the action in this case, so far as regards the freight, is a principal action, the actions at the suit of the mariners being against the ship only. That said J. D., as the only solvent owner and master of the said ship, was the only person legally entitled to receive the said freight, and, after

¹⁸⁴²
20th December.
THE
FORTITUDE.

1843.
20th December.

THE
FORTITUDE.

payment thereout of the liabilities thereupon, to pay over to the proper persons entitled to receive the same their proper proportions of the residue of the said freight. Wherefore the proctor of the said J. D., &c., prayed the Judge to pronounce for his protest, and to dismiss his parties, and the bail given on their behalf, from all further observance of justice, &c.

In behalf of the mortgagees, it was pleaded, in answer to this act on petition, that at the time the action was entered in the cause, the vessel was under the above arrest of the Court at the suit of the mariners, and that such arrest was a sufficient foundation for the Court's authority to entertain this action, under the provisions of the third section of the act 3 & 4 Vict.; that the construction of this section was altogether irrespective and independent of any connection with the fourth section of the said act. Wherefore the proctor, &c.

The question was argued by

Addams and Bayford, for the mortgagees.

Haggard and Curteis, in support of the protest.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington*.

This vessel was originally arrested in a suit for mariners' wages. Whilst under the arrest of the Court, a warrant was extracted against the ship and freight at the instance of Messrs. Pease and Co., the mortgagees of forty-eight sixty-fourth shares in the ship, and this warrant was executed by the arrest of the cargo. An appearance under protest having been given on behalf of Douglass, the master and part owner, and of the consignees of the cargo, an act on petition was brought in stating to the following effect. [Court here adverted to the contents of the act on

petition, and proceeded to observe]—The question then, it appears, is confined to a simple question of jurisdiction. If the Court possesses a jurisdiction, it is bound to exercise it, however great may be the difficulty and complexity of the questions which may arise; if it has no jurisdiction, even a failure of justice consequent thereupon would not authorize the Court to interfere in the matter. In the course of the observations which have been addressed to the Court by the learned counsel at the bar, the learned counsel have founded their arguments principally upon the act of parliament, 3 & 4 Vict. c. 65; and in the course of those arguments, two cases were cited, viz., the Percy, reported in the third volume of Dr. Haggard's Reports; and the Dowthorpe, which I myself decided. I will now proceed to notice the cases which have been so cited, before I address myself to the more immediate consideration of the statute in question. With respect to the Percy, which was decided by a very learned judge, Sir John Nicholl, I still adhere to the opinion which I expressed in delivering my judgment in the case of the Dowthorpe, viz., that the decision of Sir John Nicholl cannot be considered to extend beyond the circumstances of the case itself. I have again read over and examined the judgment in that case, and upon further consideration I am strongly inclined to think that the true difficulties of the case were not brought under the consideration of the learned judge, whose decision militates against the decision of Lord Stowell in the case of the Prince Regent. With respect to the Dowthorpe, which came under my own consideration, it is to be observed that in that case there was a suit upon a bond of bottomry, and also actions for wages and pilotage.

The ship and freight, therefore, in the case of the

VOL. II.

R

1843.
20th December.
THE
FORTITUDE.

1843.
20th December.

THE
FORTITUDE.

Dowthorpe, were under the jurisdiction and control of the Court in ordinary course, without reference to any statute. This is an important circumstance, and furnishes a material distinction between the case of the Dowthorpe and the present case, in which the freight has not been arrested, in the primary action at the suit of the mariners, as in ordinary course by persons claiming a lien thereon; but an action has been brought by the mortgagees of certain shares of the ship against both the ship and freight. That the parties so proceeding have a right to proceed against the ship or proceeds, is not denied; the question is with respect to the arrest of the freight in the present instance, as alleged in virtue of the statute. I must now refer to the statute 3 & 4 of Victoria. Prior to the passing of this statute, it was more than doubted in this Court whether, in cases where a ship had been arrested under the jurisdiction of the Court, the Court could take cognizance of the claims of mortgagees, or of any questions of title to the ship itself. In order to obviate this state of things, so detrimental to justice, the statute 3 & 4 Victoria was enacted. The intention of the legislature in passing this statute, I conceive, was, that the remedy should be commensurate with the evil. It was not, I apprehend, intended to confer any new, separate and distinct powers on this Court, but merely to enable the Court to exercise its ordinary jurisdiction to the full extent. Now what are the provisions of the 3d and 4th sections of this statute? They are as follows: (Court read the 3rd and 4th sections.) In the course of the argument it has been contended by the counsel for Mr. Douglas, the part owner, that these two sections are to be taken together, and that the question before the Court must be governed by the construction of the

two sections in connection. My opinion, I confess, does not agree with this argument; in my judgment the question solely and entirely depends upon the third section alone. Two conflicting constructions have been put upon the meaning of this section. The counsel for the mortgagees taking out the warrant have argued that the vessel having been arrested, and this being a question arising out of a deed of mortgage, the Court has ample jurisdiction under this section to take cognizance of all claims and causes of action of any person in respect of any mortgage of a vessel, and to decide any suit instituted by any such person. The counsel for the part owner, on the other hand, contend that the jurisdiction conferred upon the Court is not as to any question rising out of a deed of mortgage, but as to the ship itself being mortgaged. My own judgment, I must say, inclines to the latter construction, as it more nearly assimilates to the purposes for which the act was passed, namely, that it was intended as a remedial act, and to obviate certain evils, and no further. The question then arises, whether the circumstances of the present case bring it within the principle of the remedy, or within a fair construction of the words of the act of parliament. I conceive that they do not. Not within the principle, because, under the circumstances of the case, the Court can exercise its ordinary functions with justice without referring to the statute; not within the words of the act, because, in my view of it, it was the intention of the legislature to extend the enabling power of the Court to the ship alone. In the case of the Dowthorpe I have already observed the question was forced upon the Court by the circumstance that the freight was under the controul of the Court in the *ordinary course* of

1843.
20th December.

THE
FORTITUDE.

1843.
20th December.

THE
FORTITUDE.

its jurisdiction, and by virtue of its ordinary process. The case of the Dowthorpe, therefore, is very different from the present case, which is not a proceeding to make freight contributable to liens pari passu with the ship, but to bring under adjudication the title to the freight itself, irrespective of any other question. I am therefore disposed to pronounce in favour of the protest in the present instance, and in so doing I wish it to be most distinctly understood that I do not intend my decision in the least degree to affect the question as to the right and power of the Court to call upon the holders of freight to bring it in to bear its proportion of liens imposed by the law, when such a proceeding is necessary for the purposes of justice, and where in the original case the Court has clearly jurisdiction. I wish it also to be further understood that my decision in this case does not forestall any question as to the payment of the proceeds of the ship, nor the question as to whether out of the existing proceeds the Court shall not so deal with them as to make the sixteen sixty-fourth shares of Captain Douglas liable to discharge the wages not only pari passu with Messrs. Pease's forty-eight sixty-fourth shares, but also to bear, as far as wages are concerned, that share of the burthen which the freight in equity ought to bear. I leave all these questions wholly untouched by my present judgment, and determine nothing but the point of law which has been raised under the peculiar circumstances of the present case. I pronounce in favour of the protest.

Dr. Haggard applied for the costs.

Per Curiam.

The whole course of decisions upon the subject of costs, has gone upon the principle of not giving costs

where the law is exceedingly difficult, or the question
is a question primæ impressionis. I must therefore
decline giving costs.

1843.
20th December.
THE
FORTITUDE.

THE SPEED. ELLIS.

1844.
12th January.

THIS was a cause of collision, promoted by G. Marshall, the sole owner of the barque Thames, against the vessel The Speed, belonging to St. John's, New Brunswick. A cross action was also entered on behalf of the owners of the Speed, and the Court was assisted at the hearing of the cause by Trinity Masters.

On behalf of the Thames it was pleaded, that about 10 p. m., 5th October, 1842, the Thames was proceeding up the St. Lawrence, close hauled on the starboard tack, the wind blowing N.W. to N.W. by N., and the Thames heading W. by South to W.S.W., and the night being moderately clear, when a large vessel was observed steering towards her with a free wind by four points, and being distant about 150 yards, and on her starboard bow. That immediately thereupon the crew and pilot on board the Thames shouted out to her to keep her luff, which she might have done by starboarding her helm, but that no reply was made to such hailing by any one on board the Speed, and, when perceived, her crew, apparently confused, put her helm hard a port, which caused the Speed to strike the Thames with tremendous force upon the afterpart of the starboard main rigging, and doing the damage in question.

Collision in the river St. Lawrence. A vessel with the wind free not giving way to a vessel sailing by the wind, condemned in the damage. Practice of the Court in taking the opinion of the Trinity Masters in cases of damage by collision.

The case set up on behalf of the Speed alleged

1844.
12th January.

The
Speed.

that she was proceeding upon the night in question down the St. Lawrence, close hauled on the larboard tack, the wind being N. by E. That nearly all hands were on deck, when one of the crew forward sung out that a vessel was a-head, and which was then seen nearly right a-head, but a little on the larboard bow. That the Speed's helm was immediately put to port, when the ship, which before had been close by the wind, and her sail a little shivering, answered her helm directly, and bore away two or three points from the wind. That whilst she was bearing away, the Thames came more distinctly in view on the larboard or weather side, and appeared as if coming down upon and about to run into the Speed. That the pilot on board the Speed thereupon called to the Thames to put her helm to port, and immediately ordered the Speed's helm to be put hard a-starboard, as she was then hailed to do by the persons on board the Thames. That the ship answered her helm, and came up to the wind with her sails aback, but almost immediately afterwards the two vessels came into collision with each other.

The case was argued by
Queen's Advocate and *Haggard*, for the owners of the Speed.

Addams and *Bayford*, for the owner of the Thames.

Per Curiam.

The circumstances of this case have been most fully and laboriously discussed by the counsel employed in the cause, and I apprehend that every argument which ingenuity could suggest has been already offered to the Court's consideration. It will therefore

gentlemen, be unnecessary for me to trouble you with any lengthened observations upon the present occasion. There are certain facts which are admitted in the case, and I will first refer you to these facts, and then direct your attention to those points which have been made the subject of argument as doubtful in the cause. It is admitted that at the time of the collision, the Thames was going up the river to Quebec laden with coals and glass, and that the Speed was coming down the river with a cargo of timber. It is also admitted that the Thames was upon the starboard tack, and the Speed was on the larboard tack with the tide in her favour. Another admitted fact in the case is, that the Speed, on discovering the Thames, put her helm a-port, but afterwards to starboard. Whether the Thames kept her course or not has not been called in question either directly or indirectly in the pleadings. The only evidence to show that the Thames did any thing to alter her course is to be found in the affidavit of a seaman of the name of Moffatt, who was on board the Thames, and has now been produced as a witness for the owners of the Speed. He says that he himself put the helm of the Thames hard a-starboard, but without orders. It is to be observed that this statement comes out as it were by surprise upon the owners of the vessel proceeding in the cause, because no averment of the kind is mentioned in the pleadings, and consequently the owners of the Thames have had no opportunity of contradicting it if it were material to the issue in the cause. I therefore advise you to leave this affidavit out of your consideration; and I further take upon myself the responsibility of stating to you, that as no averment is to be found in the act on petition, or in

1844.
12th January.

THE
SPEED.

1844.
12th January.

THE
SPEED.

the answer on behalf of the Speed, that the Thames did any thing to alter her course, you must consider that she kept it, and did not either starboard or port her helm. I now come to the controverted part of the case, and the main and most important fact in dispute between the parties is from what quarter the wind blew. On the part of the Thames it is stated to have been from N. W. by W.; on the part of the Speed it is averred to have been N. by E.—certainly a very considerable variation. As regards the evidence, it is undoubtedly true that the witnesses who swear that the wind was N. by E. as alleged on behalf of the Speed, in point of number outweigh those who depose to the contrary. I am not however prepared to say that a question of this description is at all times to be decided by the number of the witnesses upon the one side or the other. We must necessarily look to the character and status of the persons who give the evidence, and also to the probabilities of the statements they are produced to support. In the present instance, you will observe, there is the evidence of the master, the mate, the pilot, and one or two other persons, on the one side, opposed to the contrary testimony of a number of the common mariners. Under this state of circumstances, it will be for you, gentlemen, to consider whether from your nautical skill and experience you can extract from the admitted facts in the case what is the probability as to the quarter from which the wind was blowing. If you are not enabled to form any opinion upon the matter with satisfaction to your own minds, you will have the goodness to tell me, because in that case it may be that neither party would be entitled to say that they had legally established their case. There is another disputed

fact upon which considerable discussion has taken place, and to which I would briefly direct your attention in conclusion of my observations, viz. from what quarter the Thames was seen from on board the Speed when the two vessels were first approaching each other. It is alleged on the part of the Speed, that the Thames was observed approaching almost head on, but a little to the larboard side; whilst on the part of the Thames it is stated that the Speed was coming with her starboard bow upon her. Notwithstanding the attention which I have paid, and the argument of the learned counsel, I confess that I am myself wholly unable to discover upon which side the truth lies, and his part of the case, therefore, I must leave to your practical skill and experience, requesting that you will take the whole circumstances of the case into your consideration, and have the goodness to inform me whether you think the case is so involved in difficulty and doubt that no satisfactory judgment can be formed, or whether you think that blame is attributable to both or either of the parties in the suit.

1844.
12th January.
THE
SPRED.

Trinity Masters.

We are of opinion that the vessel sailing from Quebec had a fair wind in her favour. We see nothing in the evidence to induce us to conclude otherwise; and it being the received rule that vessels having the wind free should get out of the way of vessels sailing by the wind, we exonerate the Thames and pronounce the Speed to have been in fault in the present instance.

The Court pronounced for the damages and costs of the Thames, and dismissed the action promoted on behalf of the Speed.

1844.
12th January.

THE
SPEED.

An application was made upon motion to the Court to admit the introduction of two affidavits, which had been sworn after the act had been closed and the proofs had been exchanged between the respective proctors in the cause. The motion was opposed upon the ground that the affidavits in question were sworn too late and contained a vast deal of irrelevant matter (and it was urged as an especial ground for opposing their admission) that they would be laid, together with the other papers in the cause, before the Trinity House Board prior to the argument, and that the Trinity Masters might come to the hearing of the cause with their minds in some degree biased by the perusal of such unheard matter.

The Court, in overruling the objection, observed to the following effect:—It has been said that there is a particular reason for opposing the introduction of these affidavits, inasmuch that an application will be made to have the case argued before Trinity Master and it is important to prevent the irrelevant fact from coming before them. In other words, it is apprehended that those gentlemen might have an unfavourable impression made upon their minds ex parte which it would be impossible afterwards to remove. This apprehension is obviously founded upon a mistaken conception of the course pursued by the Trinity Masters in these cases, viz. that they give their opinion solely and entirely upon their own view of the case. Now I wish it to be understood, and it is desirable that it should be known, that this is not the fact. In the case disposed of this morning, the Trinity Masters entertained no doubt as to the conclusion in which they should come; and although I did not

call upon them to state their reasons publicly, which it would be no easy matter for gentlemen to do who have been employed all their lives in nautical pursuits, yet they stated their reasons to me, in order that I might see whether the facts they assumed as the ground of their opinion were in accordance with the evidence in the cause. In all these questions it is the endeavour of the Court to understand as far as possible the grounds upon which the opinion of the gentlemen from the Trinity House is formed, and if unfortunately in any case I thought that they were acting erroneously, it would be my duty to differ from them.

1844.
12th January.

THE
SPEED.

THE KING WILLIAM. SMITH.*

23d January.

IN this case a summary petition was brought in on behalf of Daniel Grace, a mariner, claiming the sum of £16 : 10s. 4d., as the balance of wages due to him for services performed on board this vessel.

The petition in substance set forth, that the mariner was hired in the month of October, 1842, for a voyage from the port of London to Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, and to any port or ports in the Eastern seas, and back to the port of London or other port of discharge in the United Kingdom. That the said mariner sailed with the vessel and arrived at Hobart Town in the month of February, 1843, and in July of the said year she sailed for Batavia, upon her return voyage to England, and arrived at Falmouth upon the 3rd of November following. That shortly after her arrival at Falmouth, the master of the said vessel signified to the crew his intention of proceed-

Construction of
the statute 5 &
6 Will. 4, c. 19,
ss. 15, 16.

Court of Admiralty not authorized to entertain a suit for wages where the claim is under £20, unless it is apparent that under the circumstances of the case, justice would not be efficiently administered by proceedings before a magistrate.

1844.
23d January.

THE KING
WILLIAM.

ing to Gottenburg in Sweden, whereupon the said D. Grace and others of the crew stated, that under the articles their engagement was terminated, and upon that account declined to accompany the ship to Gottenburg. That a complaint was preferred by the master against the said D. G. and others of the crew before the magistrates at Falmouth, and upon the hearing thereof the magistrates decided that the voyage was ended, and ordered the discharge of such of the crew as desired it, and that their clothes should be given up to them. That repeated applications have been made to the owner of the said vessel for the payment of the said wages, &c. &c. &c.

No opposition was offered to the admission of this summary petition on the part of the owners, nor was the payment of the wages in question contested on their behalf. It was however submitted, that under the provisions of the statute 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 19, s. 15, the claim for wages being under the sum of £20, the mariner was bound to have brought his action before the magistrates at Falmouth, and that by proceeding in the Court of Admiralty he had forfeited his right to costs, under the 16th section of the act.

For the owners, *Haggard*.

For the mariner, *Addams*.

Per Curiam.—DR. LUSHINGTON.

The question in this case arises upon the construction of the 16th section of the act of parliament, 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 19.

It is, I believe, the first time this Court has been called upon to pronounce any opinion upon it, and looking to the terms in which the section is drawn up, I must confess that I feel no little difficulty in

ascertaining what was the precise meaning of the legislature in framing it. The statute in question, after providing in the 15th section a remedy for the delay and expense which formerly attended the enforcing payment of mariners' wages, in the 16th section enacts, in the following words (*a*)—[Court having

1844.
23d January.

THE KING
WILLIAM.

(*a*) By the 15th section it is provided, “that in all cases of wages not exceeding twenty pounds, which shall be due and payable to a seaman for his service in any ship as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace in any part of his majesty's dominions, residing near to the place where the ship shall have ended her voyage, cleared at the custom house or discharged her cargo, or near to the place where the master or owner, upon whom respectively the claim is made, shall be or reside, upon complaint on oath, to be made to such justice by any such seaman or on his behalf, to summon such master or owner to appear before him to answer such complaint, and upon the appearance of such master or owner, or in default thereof, on due proof of his having been so summoned, such justice is hereby empowered to examine upon the oath of the parties and their respective witnesses, touching the complaint and the amount of wages due, and to make such order for the payment thereof as shall to such justice appear reasonable and just;” and in case such order shall not be obeyed within two days next after the making thereof, it shall be lawful for such justice to issue his warrant to levy the amount of the wages awarded to be due by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the party on whom such order for payment shall be made, rendering to such party the overplus, if any shall remain, of the produce of the sale, after deducting thereout all the charges and expenses incurred by the seaman in the making and hearing of his complaint, as well as those incurred by the distress and levy and in the enforcement of the justice's order, &c.”

The 15th section in conclusion provides, “that in case sufficient distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful for the said justice to cause the amount of the said wages and expenses to be levied upon the ship in respect of the service on board which the wages are claimed, and the tackle and apparel thereof; and if such ship shall not be within the jurisdiction of such justice, then he is hereby empowered to cause the party upon whom the order shall be made,

1844.
23d January.

THE KING
WILLIAM.

read the words of the 16th section, proceeded to observe]—Now, what is the meaning of these two sections of the act in question? In the 15th section it is perfectly clear that the object of the legislature was to give a remedy against the delay and expense which heretofore attended the proceedings in this class of cases, and this remedy was to be supplied, not by arresting the ship in the first instance, but by a personal proceeding against the master or owner before a justice of the peace. Thus far the scope and intention of the statute is perfectly intelligible. With regard to the 16th section, however, ambiguity arises upon the words "*might have had as effectual a remedy* for the recovery of his wages by a complaint to a justice of the peace:" the meaning of these words, I confess, I cannot so easily understand. Nothing is said of the difficulties which may attend a case brought before the magistrate under the provisions of the act. The words are simply "*as effectual a remedy*," by which I presume is intended as effectual a remedy as the process of this Court could enforce. Can it be the construction of this section of the act that this Court shall certify against the plaintiff's costs to be apprehended and committed to the common gaol of the county, &c. &c."

The 16th section enacts, "that if any suit for the recovery of a seaman's wages shall be instituted against the ship, or the master or owner thereof, either in the High Court of Admiralty or in any Vice-Admiralty Court, or against the master or owner in any court of record in his majesty's dominions, and it shall appear to the judge in the course of such suit that the plaintiff *might have had as effectual a remedy* for the recovery of his wages by complaint to a justice of the peace as hereinbefore provided, then and in every such case it shall be lawful for such judge, and he is hereby required, to certify to that effect, and thereupon no costs of suit shall be awarded to the plaintiff."

y in cases where difficulty occurs ? If it be, I
not see the reason of it; and I should feel con-
table hesitation in coming to any such conclusion
respect to the intention of the legislature. I
ceive that the best and most rational interpretation
I can put upon the 16th section of the act is,
at it was the intention of the legislature that the
rt of Admiralty should not entertain a suit for
iners' wages where the claim set up is under £20,
ss it is apparent upon a view of all the circum-
ces of the case that justice could not be fully and
iently administered by a magistrate." The ques-
then arises, how far the circumstances of the case
g it within this interpretation ? Different con-
ctions, it appears, have been put upon the ma-
r's contract; and it is obvious that when the
ter of the vessel resorted to forcible measures to
pel the crew to proceed with the ship from Fal-
uth to Gottenburg, he did so under the impression
t he was legally justified in so doing; it is also
ally obvious that the owners in thus far resist-
the payment of the wages have been actuated by
same consideration. Even the magistrates at Fal-
uth, so far as I can take the statement without
lence, seem to have been in doubt, for they ordered
discharge of the crew, and directed their clothes
be given up, but said nothing as to the wages.
der the circumstances of the case then, although I
st confess that I see no difficulty whatever in the
struction of the articles, and it does not appear to
that any question of law arises upon them, yet
ink that I should do an injustice to the mariner if
fused him his costs.

1844.
23d January.

THE KING
WILLIAM.



1844.
23d January.

A vessel sailing upon a foggy night with all her sails set excepting her fore-top gallant sail, dismissed upon the ground of inevitable accident.

Practice of the Court is not to give costs on either side where a collision has occurred from inevitable accident.

THE ITINERANT. RUSSELL.

THIS was a cause of damage by collision, promoted by the owners of the schooner Isabella against this vessel, her tackle, &c. &c. &c.

On behalf of the Isabella, it was stated in the act on petition, that upon the 19th May she sailed from Newcastle laden with coals, and bound to Mundesley in Norfolk ; and about one o'clock a.m. of the 23d of the said month, the wind, which had previously been to the eastward, varied to about S. E., and the said schooner, which had been laying larboard tacked S. and by E., fell off and lay larboard tacked S. and by W., close to the wind, being then about twenty miles to the southward of Flamborough Head, the wind blowing a fresh breeze, and the weather being thick and foggy ; that R. N., who had the watch on deck, kept the fog horn from time to time constantly sounding, and which signal was answered by two vessels in company, one to windward and the other to leeward of the said schooner ; that at half-past two a.m. of said day, R. N., having first sounded the fog horn, went below into the cabin to see what time it was, which he had no sooner done, than one of the crew, who was at the helm, observed a large brig of 220 tons, which afterwards proved to be the Itinerant, coming down in ballast before the wind ; that the course of the schooner was kept steady by the wind, under the supposition that the said brig would, as it was her duty, pass to leeward, or otherwise give way ; and the crew of the brig were hailed repeatedly so to give way by the persons on board the schooner, but no answer was returned, neither was the course of the brig in any degree altered, in consequence whereof she came into collision with the Isabella, striking her

on the larboard bow, and cutting her down to the water's edge, and the said schooner shortly afterwards sunk ; that the said brig had her topmast and lower studding sails set on her starboard side, and her fore-ail, foretopsail, foretop gallant sail, square mainsail, main topsail, main top gallant sail, main royal and fore and aft mainsail set ; that the loss of the said schooner was entirely imputable to the said brig Itinerant and those on board her in not altering her course and not giving way, as it was her duty to have done under the circumstances ; wherefore, &c. &c.

In the reply of the owners of the Itinerant, it was in substance alleged that the wind was E. S. E. and not S. E., and the night extremely foggy, and that a good look out was kept on board the Itinerant, W. D. and H. S. being stationed on the forecastle on the look out, and C. S. the mate being on the main deck, and G. S. having charge of the helm ; that the Itinerant was sailing only at the rate of three knots an hour, her course being N. and on the starboard tack, having the wind two points abaft her beam ; that shortly previous to the collision the fog had become so intensely thick that it was utterly impossible to discern any vessel at the distance of from nine to ten yards ; that after the weather became foggy, and until the time of the said collision, the crew of the Itinerant constantly kept a good look-out, and used every precaution to prevent accident, but that for the space of half an hour before the collision occurred they heard no sound from any fog horn save their own ; neither was there nor could there have been any hallooing on board the Isabella previous to the said collision ; that the Isabella, at the time of the collision, was larboard tack, and laying S. and not S. by W. ; the wind as aforesaid being E. S. E. ; that it was impossible for

1844.
23d January.

THE
ITINERANT.

1844.
23d January.

THE
ITINERANT.

the Itinerant to give way to the schooner or to alter her course, as it is alleged she ought to have done, for that the intensity of the fog prevented her crew, though keeping an anxious look-out, from even seeing the Isabella till the two vessels were in contact with each other ; that by reason of the premises the said collision was altogether an unavoidable accident, and to be attributed solely to the state of the weather, and which rendered all the care and precaution taken by the Itinerant unavailing ; wherefore, &c. &c.

The cause was argued before Trinity Masters, by *Addams* and *H. Nicholl*, for the Isabella. *Queen's Advocate* and *Bayford*, for the Itinerant.

Per Curiam.

I have observed with much regret that very many causes of collision, involving great destruction of property, and a probable loss of human life, have recently been brought under the consideration of this Court. Questions of this kind, I lament to say, have been increasing in number, and as it is most desirable that our decisions should be, as far as possible, of such a nature as to induce masters, mates, and mariners, to adhere to the rules which you have laid down and the right principles of navigation, I must address a few observations to you, gentlemen, notwithstanding the attention you have paid to the arguments of counsel, and the care you have taken, by reading the papers in the cause, to make yourselves acquainted with the facts of the case.

With respect to the place where the collision occurred in the present action, there is no material discrepancy in the respective statements before the Court. On the part of the Itinerant, it is stated to

en place at sea, the high land of Framlington S. W., distant about eighteen or twenty miles. part of the Isabella, the vessel proceeding in se, it is avowed that the accident occurred enty miles southward of Flamborough Head. these accounts, you will perceive, are suffi-consistent to render it unnecessary to fix eater precision the locality of the accident. spect to the wind, there is a somewhat greater ncy in the two statements. On the part of ella, it is represented as blowing from the st; on the part of the Itinerant, that it was , making, as regards the wind, a difference of nts in the respective statements. Now, gen-it occurs to me, that whether the wind was E. S. E., the difference in the two statements I have adverted could not materially affect luct which ought to have been pursued by the t under the circumstances of the present case. hen consider, in the first place, the conduct by that vessel, which is the vessel charged ving caused the collision.

stated on her behalf that she kept a good t, but that it was utterly impossible to distin-n consequence of the fogginess of the night, ella, a vessel of only seventy-one tons burthen, he collision actually took place. The defence, e, which is set up on behalf of the Itinerant, se of inevitable accident, arising from an act idence, viz. the state of the weather. Now, is I am able to form a judgment upon the see no reason to discredit the averment that look-out was kept on board the Itinerant, it is distinctly sworn in the evidence that she r persons upon deck at the time, two of whom

1844.
23d January.

THE
ITINERANT.

1844.
23d January.

**The
ITINERANT.**

were stationed upon the forecastle, one at the helm, and one amidships. Again, with respect to the state of the weather, I think it is fairly to be collected from the evidence in the cause, that the weather at the time was, as stated, thick and foggy; and I here would observe to you, that although the statement of the Itinerant may, as regards the state of the weather, be true, yet the owners of that vessel may nevertheless be to blame, if the master and crew did not adopt all those measures which it was in their power to have adopted for the purpose of avoiding the collision. How far it was or was not possible for them under the circumstances to have avoided such collision, is the more immediate part for your consideration upon the present occasion. And this leads me to direct your attention to another important circumstance in the case, I mean the speed at which the Itinerant was proceeding at the time. With regard to her actual rate of sailing, there is undoubtedly a difference in the evidence. One fact, however, is not denied or disputed, viz. that she was proceeding at the time with all her sails set, excepting her foretop gallant sail. The carrying so great a press of sail has been justified by the counsel for the Itinerant in the course of their argument by the suggestion that the Itinerant was going against the tide, and that it was essential for her preservation that she should make the best headway she could, to avoid being run into by other vessels which were following in her wake. It has also been asserted that her actual rate of sailing at the time was not more than three knots an hour. Such being the statement set up on behalf of the Itinerant, it will be for you, gentlemen, upon this representation, to determine, in the first instance, what was the real state of the tide, and what the pro-

bable rate of the Itinerant's speed ; and then, secondly, you will have the kindness to inform me whether that speed was or was not too great, considering that she was navigating upon a dark and foggy night, and in a track where she was likely to encounter other vessels.

I will now, before I conclude my observations, very briefly direct your attention to the statement which is set up on behalf of the Isabella. Her case is to this effect, that being on the larboard tack, with the wind S.E. and her head S. by W., Broughton, the man at the helm, discovered the Itinerant, and that he so made the discovery only a minute before the collision took place. It is not denied that the master of the Isabella was at such time not upon deck, but below ; indeed, it is admitted by the master himself in his affidavit that he so went below to look at his watch. Now it appears to me that a question of great importance as affecting the issue in this cause arises upon this part of the case. The crew of the Isabella, it is admitted, consisted of five persons, and of those persons only one, viz., the man at the helm, was on deck when the Itinerant was first observed approaching towards the Isabella. The night, it is to be remembered, was dark and foggy. Was it then, I ask, right on the part of the Isabella to be sailing at any time upon such a night with only one man upon deck ? If the man at the helm could have seen the Itinerant one minute before the collision took place, a man on the forecastle, it occurs to me, might by possibility have seen her two or three minutes. This, gentlemen, will be an important point for your consideration ; and the questions which I have now to put to you are these :—first, was the Itinerant solely to blame ? secondly, was the Isabella in any degree in

1844.
23d January.

THE
ITINERANT.

1844.
23d January.

THE
ITINERANT.

fault? and lastly, was the collision entirely the result of inevitable accident? As I have already stated in the commencement of my observations, several similar cases have recently occurred in this Court. In the course of the argument, it has been urged that in some of the cases the Court has laid down certain principles of general application to all questions of this description. This is rather a misapprehension of what fell from the Court in those cases. It is undoubtedly most desirable that there should be uniformity of decision and uniformity of principle in all the cases as far as is practicable; and feeling the importance of this, I have upon former occasions endeavoured to explain as clearly as I could the opinions which have been delivered, and the rules which have been adopted by the Trinity House Board for the government of masters of vessels. At the same time I never intended to lay down any general principles, but with reference to the circumstances of each case, whatever those circumstances might be. The circumstances of each case differ so much, that no man would be bold enough to lay down any principle of universal application; and although certain general rules for the government of vessels may be extracted from the observations which have been heretofore laid down in this Court, the application of those rules, under the circumstances of each particular case, must be matter of nautical skill, and not of judicial determination.

Gentlemen, that we may decide the present case with satisfaction to the public as well as to ourselves, I suggest that we retire and consult together upon the proper decision to be made in this case.

After a short absence with the Trinity Masters in the inner hall, the learned Judge stated that, as there

were certain difficulties in the case which demanded further consideration, he would postpone his decision till the first day of Term.

Upon the 23d of January, the Court pronounced that the collision was the result of inevitable accident; and in delivering his judgment, the learned Judge observed, "The real difficulty in the case which induced the Court and the gentlemen from the Trinity House to take time for further deliberation has arisen from the press of sail which the Itinerant is represented to have carried under the circumstances of the case. It is unquestionably the duty of every master of a ship, whether in an intense fog or great darkness, to exercise the utmost vigilance, and to put his vessel under command so as to secure the best chance of avoiding all accidents, even though such precautions may occasion some delay in the prosecution of the voyage. It may be that for such a purpose it would be his duty to take in his studding sails; but such is the constantly varying combination of circumstances arising from locality, wind, tide, number of vessels in the track, and other considerations, that the Court cannot venture to lay down any general rule which would absolutely apply in all cases. In the present instance, the opinion of the Court is, that it might have been prudent for the Itinerant to have taken in her studding sails; but the Court is also of opinion, and so were the gentlemen by whom it was assisted at the hearing of this case, that the collision was not occasioned by the omission of the Itinerant so to do, but that the state of the weather was such that the accident would have occurred, even although this precaution had been adopted."

Suit dismissed.

1844.
23d January.

THE
ITINERANT.

1844.
23d January.

**THE
ITINERANT.**

Queen's Advocate, on behalf of the owners of the Itinerant, prayed for costs; but the Court declined to give them, upon the ground that the course of practice had been not to give costs on either side where a collision had occurred from inevitable accident.

31st January.

In cases of collision, where the evidence on both sides is conflicting and nicely balanced, the Court will be guided by the probabilities of the respective cases which are set up; *a priori* the presumption is that the master of a vessel would do what was right and follow the regular and correct course of navigation.

THIS was a case of collision under the circumstances noticed in the observations of the Court. The Court was assisted by Trinity Masters.

For the Juno, *Dr. Addams.*

For the Mary Stewart, *Dr. Haggard.*

Per Curiam.

Gentlemen, it is not necessary that I should trouble you with many observations upon the present case. The collision in question took place off the jetty at Yarmouth in the month of June last; and at the time of the accident, the Mary Stewart, the vessel proceeded against, was on her voyage from Hartlepool to London, laden with a cargo of coals; and the Juno, also coal laden, was proceeding in company with other collier vessels from Hartlepool to London. It appears that shortly before the collision occurred, the Mary Stewart was upon the larboard tack, and the Juno was upon the starboard tack. There is, you will observe, some little discrepancy in the respective statements as to the wind; but it does not appear to me that this consideration has any material bearing upon our decision. We will take the wind to have been about S. W., and we may also take it as an ad-

mitted fact in the case, that both the vessels were close hauled at the time of the collision. In this state of circumstances, the Mary Stewart (whether rightly or wrongly it will be for you to determine) endeavoured to pass to windward of the Juno. In so doing, according to my apprehension of the rule which has been laid down, she was *prima facie* guilty of a violation of that rule, and her owner will in point of law be responsible for the damage in question, unless it can be proved that there were particular circumstances to justify their deviation from the rule. The burthen of proof then lying with the Mary Stewart, it is stated on her behalf that, at the time the two vessels were approaching each other on opposite tacks, the Juno was about to pass to leeward of the Mary Stewart, and that for that purpose her helm was in the first instance kept a-weather; but that her course was subsequently altered, and she endeavoured to come up to windward, and the collision was altogether occasioned by such alteration of her original course. The defence of the Mary Stewart, you will observe, is rested upon this statement; and I need scarcely tell you that she is bound to prove and establish this statement by competent evidence.

With respect to the affidavits before the Court, I must state that there is not in my opinion sufficient evidence to satisfy my mind that the conduct of the Juno was such as is described. The fact is directly put in issue between the two parties in the suit, and the testimony of the witnesses on the one side and the other is so conflicting, that it would be most extremely difficult for the Court, unaided by nautical considerations, to form an opinion which statement is entitled to credence. I must therefore request your opinion upon the probabilities of the respective state-

1844.
31st January.

THE
MARY
STEWART.

1844.

31st January.

THE
MARY
STEWART.

ments in issue. You are more competent to form an opinion upon these probabilities than I am; and looking at the circumstances of the case, you will have the goodness to inform me whether it is probable that the master of the Juno, under the circumstances, would have attempted to pass to windward, and that he would have put up his helm first a-weather and then to lee in the manner which he has stated. In the absence of proof to the contrary, you must recollect that the presumption is in favour of the Juno that her master would follow the ordinary course; and with these observations, I will now leave it to your consideration which of the two vessels in your opinion was to blame.

Trinity Masters.

We are clearly of opinion that the Mary Stewart was in fault.

Damages pronounced for.



THE HEBE. COLE.

31st January.

Pilots going on board a vessel in a leaky condition and assisting the crew, and keeping down the water by pumping, entitled to be rewarded as salvors.

A tender of £42 overruled, and £65 awarded.

THIS was a cause of salvage, promoted by the owners, master and crew of a pilot cutter at Yarmouth, for services rendered under the circumstances fully noticed in the judgment of the Court.

For the salvors, *Queen's Advocate* and *Dr. Jenner*.

For the owners, *Dr. Bayford* and *Dr. Elphinstone*.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

The value of the property in this case, including

the cargo and freight, is admitted to be about £870. It is also further admitted that certain services have been rendered to the vessel, for which a tender of £42 has been made. The sole question therefore which I have to determine is the sufficiency or insufficiency of that tender under the circumstances of the case. It appears that the vessel, prior to her sailing from the port of Sunderland on a voyage to Colchester, on the evening of the 9th of November last strained herself, and in consequence thereof, according to the affidavit of the master of the vessel, she sprung a leak, making, as it is admitted, four or five inches water. It further appears that in the progress of the voyage the leakage increased, to what extent is not stated in the affidavit; and when off Yarmouth harbour, and about three quarters of a mile distant, the master deemed it advisable to come to an anchor and hoist a signal, the wind at the time blowing a storm from the N. W., and the vessel, as I understand it, lying something south of the harbour at Yarmouth. At daylight on the morning of the 9th, the alleged salvors, all of whom, with the exception of one man, are harbour pilots, being on the look out, proceeded to the vessel and tendered their assistance, which is accepted by the master of the Hebe. A long discussion has been entered into as to whether their assistance was required only for the purpose of piloting the vessel into the harbour at Yarmouth, or whether it was to be considered of a higher and different description. Now I am clearly of opinion that, in the leaky condition in which this vessel was, the alleged salvors were in no degree bound to have taken charge of her, for the purpose of bringing her into the harbour of Yarmouth for a pilotage remuneration. I do not mean that they were not bound to take

*1844.
31st January.*

*THE
HEBE.*

1844.
31st January.

THE
HERR.

charge of her when requested by the master, but that having so taken her in charge under the circumstances of the case, they would be entitled to a large remuneration than would be paid by vessels which had suffered no damage or inconvenience whatever. Having then been so taken on board, in order to get the vessel into the harbour, it was necessary in the first instance to pay out an anchor and cable. This undoubtedly was no part of the ordinary duty of pilot. It was a service of a different description. Whilst in the act of paying out the anchor, the wind suddenly shifted from the S. to the N. N. W., which was a favourable wind for the vessel to make for the river Colne, and the master accordingly determined to proceed at once on his original voyage. For this purpose the anchor is slipped, and the alleged salvors having recovered the same, proceeded board the vessel for the river Colne, where she eventually arrives at one o'clock of the 10th of the same month. The service therefore, in point of duration lasted from seven o'clock in the morning of the 9th until the afternoon of the 10th, including the whole night of the 9th. It certainly appears that the principal duty which they performed whilst on board was the service of pumping, it being indispensably necessary that one pump should be kept going during the whole of the time. I do not enter into the inquiry what particular quantity of water the vessel was making per hour; it is quite sufficient that she was making so much that she required the labour of these seven persons to keep it under. Now these persons are clearly entitled to remuneration for all that I have stated. They are entitled to remuneration from the first moment they were received on board, for having laid out the anchor and recovering the same, ar-

also for the services performed whilst they accompanied the vessel to the river Colne. It is also to be taken into the consideration of the case, that although the wind was favourable at this period, and the voyage was accomplished in safety, yet the vessel was in that condition that if the wind had again come on to blow as it subsequently did a very short time after the service was rendered, the task to be performed by the salvors would unquestionably have been one of infinitely greater difficulty, and might have been attended with considerable danger. Now these, I think, are the leading facts of the case. The salvors have, perhaps, somewhat overstated their case, in averring that the master and crew of the Hebe all went to bed. Part of them unquestionably did; but the fair inference is that some remained upon deck, and were employed in their ordinary avocations, the salvors themselves being occupied in keeping the water under by pumping. It has been said that the tender which has been offered is sufficient, because Mr. Revetts has sworn, that under the circumstances of the case, he could have procured men from Yarmouth to perform the same services at the rate of about 2*l.* 10*s.* per man. Now assuming the truth of this statement, it is obvious, in the first place, that some time must necessarily have elapsed before these men could have been procured. And in the second place, it is obvious that they would not have been entitled to any reward for having gone on board in the first instance, and of having adopted the preliminary measures for bringing the ship into the port of Yarmouth. It is also to be observed, that men are always to be hired to perform the ordinary work of pumping on board a ship when there is no danger. But it is next to impossible to fix the precise price at which men are to go on a

1844.
31st January.

THE
HEBE.

1844.
31st January.

THE
HARBOUR

voyage under the possible risk of their lives. I must now advert, in conclusion, to a circumstance which has been much commented upon in the argument, viz. the fact of the *boat* having accompanied the ship to the river Colne, and the largeness of the expenses which are stated to have been incurred by the salvors in their return to Yarmouth. Now, I must say, that looking at all the circumstances, and more especially looking at the state and condition of the vessel, it was by no means an unimportant or unnecessary precaution that the boat should accompany them for the purpose of carrying them back to their own port of Yarmouth, had the weather been fair; and it is clearly in evidence in the affidavits that they would so have returned, unless prevented by the interposition of tempestuous weather. With respect to the expenses, which are suggested to be exorbitant, it is sworn that they were positively incurred; and looking at the number of persons employed, and considering that after the severe labour in which they had been occupied, they would, upon landing, expect to receive hospitable treatment at whatever public-house they resorted to, I do not think the alleged exorbitancy is so great as to be matter of notice for the Court. Under all the circumstances then, I am of opinion that the tender of £42 is not an adequate tender.

Considering the length of time the service lasted, that these persons were called from their usual avocations, and debarred from the chance of other profitable occupation; that they did perform the service fairly, and conveyed the vessel into a port of safety, I am of opinion that it is necessary to give a larger reward, in order to encourage persons of this description to render similar services when necessary. I shall therefore give them the sum of £65.

RAFT OF TIMBER. STEWARD.

MOTION.

IN this case the Court was moved to decree a motion against J. Steward, of Great Yarmouth, to show cause why salvage should not be awarded for services rendered in the preservation of a certain raft of timber, the property of the said J. S.

The affidavit to lead the motion set forth, that J. W., master of the steam tug Accommodation, of Great Yarmouth, was on board his steam vessel about five a. m. of the 16th of December, engaged in towing up the harbour a schooner called the Margaret, of Yarmouth, and when he was about half-way up the river he observed something upon the water like a barge, floating down the harbour with a strong ebb tide running. That, being very dark at the time, the deponent and his crew hailed the same to keep the west side of the harbour, to prevent damage, but receiving no answer, the said J. W. gave orders for the steam tug to be stopped, when he discovered the same to be a large heavy raft of timber, with no person in charge thereof; whereupon the said J. W., being fearful the said raft would drive down upon and sink vessels lying at the piers, or otherwise float out of the harbour and be lost at sea, he immediately towed the said schooner Margaret just above the ballast quay, and not considering it prudent to approach the said raft with the said steam tug, he, together with two of his crew, took the boat belonging to the said steam tug, with some ropes, chains and grapnels, and proceeded with all possible speed towards the said raft, which he fell in with and boarded by the malt-houses, and after great difficulty succeeded in

1844.
9th February.
Motion for a
monition call-
ing upon the
owner of a raft
of timber which
was found flot-
sam in Yar-
mouth harbour,
to show cause
why salvage
should not be
awarded for the
rescue and pre-
servation of the
same.

Motion re-
jected, upon the
ground that the
Court did not
possess a juris-
diction over the
subject-matter
under the pro-
vision of the
stat. 3 & 4 Vict.
c. 65, s. 6.

1844.
9th February.

RAFT OF
TIMBER.

steering the said raft towards the west shore, when he made the same fast, and left one of his crew in charge ; and as soon as the tide eased, the said J. S. proceeded down with the said steam tug and shifted the same, and afterwards took it in tow and brought it up to the town, and left it safely moored on the east side of the water. That several applications have been made to S. Steward, the owner of the said raft, for payment of some remuneration for the services so rendered, but that the said J. S. hath refused to make any compensation for the same, and therefore the aid and process of the Court is required to enforce payment thereof.

It was further stated in the case, that the master of the steam tug, after securing the raft, reported the circumstances to Mr. Wheatly, the Deputy Vice-Admiral for the county of Norfolk, and he retained possession of the raft until the 1st of January, when J. S., the owner, removed the same by force, contending that the Vice-Admiral had no jurisdiction.

Under these circumstances the Court was moved to issue the monition as above stated.

In support of the motion, *Haggard* referred to the Charter of James the First, and the letters patent appointing Lord Wodehouse Vice-Admiral of the county of Norfolk, and submitted that under the powers granted by these documents, the Vice-Admiralty Court at Yarmouth, whilst it existed, would clearly have been competent to entertain the claim in question. That the jurisdiction of that Court having been abolished by the 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 108, there was now no local tribunal existing at Yarmouth in which, according to the terms of the patent, the goods picked up can be proceeded against in a cause

of salvage. That the jurisdiction of the Court had been considerably enlarged by the statute 3 & 4 Vict. c. 65, and the terms of the enlargement under the 6th section were sufficiently comprehensive to enable the Court to interpose in the matter.

1844.
9th February.
RAFT OF
TIMBER.

Per Curiam.—DR. LUSHINGTON.

This is an application to the Court to decree a monition, calling upon the owner of a certain raft of timber to show cause why a salvage remuneration should not be awarded to the master and crew of a steam-tug, under the circumstances stated in the affidavit which has been read to the Court. The locality where the alleged service was rendered is clearly within the body of the county, and the question arises whether upon the facts disclosed this Court possesses a jurisdiction over the subject-matter. Looking to the prior practice of the Court, and to the decision pronounced by Sir Christopher Robinson in the case of the Public Opinion, I am clearly of opinion that the Court *prima facie* would not be entitled to take cognizance of the matter. It has been submitted, however, that since the decision in the case of the Public Opinion, the jurisdiction of the Court has been considerably extended, and that under the provisions of the fifth section of the statute of 3 & 4 Victoria, the extended power conferred upon the Court is sufficiently comprehensive to justify the Court in issuing the monition which is prayed for in the present instance. It has also been suggested in support of the application, that the subject-matter of this motion, though locally situated *infra corpus comitatus*, would have been triable in the Vice-Admiralty Court of Falmouth under the terms of the Vice-Admiral's

1844.
9th February.

RAFT OF
TIMBER.

patent (*a*) ; and that the alleged salvors, who were manifestly entitled to some remuneration for the service which they had performed, would be deprived of the means of enforcing the same unless the Court shall interpose in their behalf.

Now the act 5 & 6 Will. 4, which is entitled the Municipal Corporation Act, provides in the 108th section to the effect " that after the passing of the act the jurisdiction of the Vice-Admiralty Courts (with certain exceptions specially provided in the act) shall be discontinued." I do not however find that any

(*a*) By the letters-patent, dated the 15th June, 1838, the late Lord Wodehouse was appointed Vice-Admiral of the county of Norfolk and maritime parts thereof, with power to take cognizance of and proceed in all causes civil and maritime, as well between merchants and owners of ships as between any other persons whomsoever, in any matter, cause or thing, business or injury whatsoever, done or to be done as well upon or by the sea, on public streams, on fresh waters, ports, rivers or creeks and places overflowed with the ebbing and flowing of the sea and to high-water mark, as upon all shores or banks to them, or any of their adjacent, from the first bridges towards the sea, together with all and singular the emergencies, incidents and dependencies annexed and connected, and to hear and determine the same according to the civil and maritime laws and customs of the High Court of Admiralty of England, and also of and concerning goods, flotsam, jetsam, lagon, treasures found, and of all goods whatsoever taken or to be taken as derelict, as well upon the sea as in all ports, public streams, rivers or creeks, from all first bridges towards the sea, howsoever, wheresoever they shall happen to be or be found within the maritime jurisdiction aforesaid, and to preserve the same in any Court of the Admiralty of England, then held or to be held before her Majesty or her Lieutenant, Vice-Admiral or deputy, or four justices to be appointed by commission or letters-patent, according to the statute thereupon made and the custom of the High Court of Admiralty of England.

The words printed in italics were the parts of the letters-patent more immediately relied upon by the counsel for the alleged salvors.

vision is made for transferring that jurisdiction to Court of Admiralty. But even supposing that Court had succeeded to all the jurisdiction formerly exercised by the Vice-Admiralty Court at Yar-uth, I am not prepared to hold that I might not interdicted from interfering in the matter under theiliar circumstances of the case, unless an express vision is to be found empowering the Court to do under the other statute which has been referred to, the 3 & 4 Vict. c. 65.

How far then is any such authority conveyed by statute? The sixth section of the act provides in se words (Court here referred to the sixth section, erving)—Now it is quite clear to my mind that the words of this section the Court does not obtain sufficient enlargement of its powers to enable it interfere in the present instance. This is neither ship or sea-going vessel; it is simply a raft of ber. Under these circumstances then I do not think hould be justified in allowing the monition to go . I must therefore reject the motion, and the ty on whose behalf the application is made must k elsewhere in a court of common law the assist- e to which he considers himself entitled.

1844.
9th February.

RAFT OF
TIMBER.

THE FAVORITE. LAMBERT.

9th February.

HIS was a suit for salvage, promoted by W. Davey, of Bude, in the county of Cornwall, against a antity of iron which formed a portion of the cargo board the brig Favorite of Sunderland.

It was set forth in the act on petition, that the brig longing to the port of Sunderland sailed for the

A person who, under an agree- ment with the master of a stranded vessel, had taken charge of the ship, and had succeeded in saving and

1844.
9th February.

THE
FAVORITE.

warehousing a portion of the cargo, the vessel having gone to pieces, held entitled to a salvage remuneration, although his services were to be considered in the character of a meritorious agency rather than of salvage services.

port of Cardiff with a cargo of refined metal, 1 to Rotterdam ; that about 11 o'clock a. m. of the of October, being in a very disabled state in consequence of having encountered a heavy gale standing round the Longships, the master ra said brig for the land, when becoming unmanag she struck on the beach between two reefs of ro the back of the breakwater, near the entrance harbour of Bude ; that upon the tide recedin master went on shore and made arrangements W. D., the asserted salvor, to act in saving the on board the said brig, whereupon the said took such active measures for the preservation same as the occasion required, and was em therein from the 28th of October until the 1 November inclusive ; that during such tin weather was generally tempestuous, and th W. D. was almost incessantly occupied day and in the salvage of the said cargo and removing place of safety ; that on the evening of the 3d vember the said brig went to pieces and was away, the tide never having entirely left her that previously thereto the greater portion cargo had been removed and deposited in a p safety beyond the reach of the tide, the rise sea being so great as to wash away to a great di portions of the iron in the course of its remova rying along with it the crab and other mac used in effecting the said salvage, and thereby sioning much damage and loss to the said V that the cargo which had been so rescued w moved to the wharf of the said W. D., about t and a half distant from the wreck, and was moved with great labour and difficulty, the r

the said wharf lying over a considerable portion of the breakwater, which is formed of large unhewn stones, and also across a river swollen to a dangerous state by the heavy rain ; that the cargo so saved consisted of about 240 tons of refined metal, and required 100 or 300 journeys by carts and horses in its removal ; that the agreed value of the said cargo was £10, and that the payments and expenses made and incurred by the said W. D., including wharfage and reakage of machinery, and the hire of men, &c., and without including any remuneration whatever to the said W. D. for his own services, amounted to the sum of £155 ; wherefore the proctor of said W. D., &c. &c.

A reply was brought in on behalf of the sole owner of the iron so salved, admitting generally the statement of the salvor as to the extent of the services alleged to have been rendered, but denying that the services in question were salvage services but only agency services, and that the expenses incurred by the said W. D. did not, as pretended, amount to the sum of £155.

The case was argued by

Haggard and Twiss, for the salvors.

Elphinstone, for the owner of the iron.

Per Curiam.—DR. LUSHINGTON.

This is a suit to obtain a remuneration for services which are alleged to have been performed under somewhat peculiar circumstances. The facts of the case are shortly these.—(Court here recapitulated the facts as set forth in the pleadings, and observed)—now it is not to be left out of consideration that the cargo which has been thus preserved is of a peculiar

1844.
9th February.

THE
FAVORITE.

1844.
9th February.

THE
FAVORITE.

character, consisting of refined iron, which was not removed without very considerable difficulty from the situation in which it was placed when the asserted salvor first offered his assistance. It is also to be taken into the consideration of the case, that the locality of the disaster is upon the coast of Cornwall, in a part of the country where even at the present moment shipwrecked property is liable to other casualties and misfortunes than the mere dangers of the sea; and where, I regret to say, but little trust or confidence can be reposed in the honesty or the humanity of some of the inhabitants. In the course of the observations addressed to the Court by the learned counsel for the owner of the cargo, some objections were thrown out with respect to some of the charges included in the expenses which are alleged to have been incurred by the salvor in the services in question. Complaint has been made in particular to the charge of £30 for watching the property during the time it lay upon the rocks. Now it would be extremely difficult for me to form any opinion as to the precise amount which ought to be charged under the circumstances of the case. Looking, however, to the consideration to which I have just adverted, it is obvious that greater expense would be incurred in securing the preservation of the property upon the coast of Cornwall than in other parts of the kingdom. I do not think, therefore, that I should be justified in disturbing this charge, more especially as it is stated to have been paid, and there is no direct evidence before the Court in contradiction of this averment. A similar observation will apply to other of the charges which have been commented upon by the counsel for the owner, viz. the Court has no means of forming a judgment whether they are proper or not,

and they have been authenticated as having been actually incurred and defrayed. With respect to the services of Mr. Davey himself, he was employed by previous agreement with the master to superintend and conduct the necessary measures for the preservation of the property, and this agreement he appears to have fulfilled most honestly and fairly from the beginning to the end of the transaction ; having through his exertions been successful in saving about 240 tons of iron, which would otherwise in all probability have been entirely lost. He swears, moreover, that his time and attention, and that of his son, clerks and servants, were very considerably engaged in performing the services in question.

The truth of this averment is not in any degree impeached under the circumstances of the case, therefore Mr. Davey is most clearly entitled to a liberal remuneration ; and although I cannot view his services in the strict character of salvage services, but rather of a successful and meritorious agency, I am of opinion that I shall not exceed the fair quantum of reward if I decree him the sum of £250, to cover all expenses, saving the costs of this suit, which I must allow him in addition.

£250 awarded, with costs.

THE TOWAN. LEWIS.

. SALVAGE.

THE act on petition in this case in substance alleged,

that on the 28th October last, the brig Towan, of the burthen of 144 tons, whilst in the prosecution of a voyage from Llanelly to Littlehampton with a cargo of

24th February.

A claim of salvors setting up an inflamed and exaggerated statement of alleged salvage

1844
24th February.

THE
TOWAN.
services dis-
missed, and the
salors con-
demned in the
costs. The crew
of a vessel pro-
ceeded against
coming forward
uno ore to de-
pose against the
interest of the
owners, causes
a suspicion in
the mind of the
Court.

culm and stone, encountered a heavy gale of wind from the N. W., accompanied by a tremendous sea, which continually swept the decks and stove in their ship's boat; that about 7 a. m. of the same day, the said brig, then making a foot of water and more per hour, was obliged to run for the port of Padstow in the county of Cornwall, and succeeded in reaching the entrance of the harbour, when, in order to prevent being driven on shore, her anchor was dropped, and she rode to the same, though in very great peril, the sea every moment breaking over her and sweeping her decks; that whilst the said brig was so anchored, her windlass overturned and became unmanageable; that R. T., hearing that a brig in distress was running for the harbour of Padstow, immediately manned his boat and proceeded down the harbour for the purpose of rendering assistance, the wind then blowing a heavy gale from the N. W. with a tremendous sea on; that whilst rowing down the harbour they perceived round the Steppar point, at the entrance of the harbour, the said brig with a signal of distress flying, and her foretop gallant mast gone; that the said brig lay in very great peril, the crew being in great distress and shrieking for assistance; that a pilot boat put off from shore towards the said brig, with a line attached to one of the capstan warps on shore, but in consequence of the gale and heavy sea the said pilot boat was unable to reach the said brig, and put back for the shore; that thereupon the said R. T. took the line into his boat for the purpose of carrying off to the said brig, and although the pilot having the charge of the capstan wharps warned him that the attempt was too hazardous, the said R. T. directed his crew to pull towards the said brig, then about 150 fathoms from the shore, and after great exertion, and

at great peril of their lives, the said R. T. and his crew succeeded in reaching the said brig, when H. L., the master thereof, and his crew, in a state of much alarm, begged them to take them off the said brig ; that the said R. T. having run his boat alongside the brig, threw the end of the line on board, and afterwards the said R. T. boarded the brig, and his crew rowed to the shore, leaving said R. T. on board ; that the crew of the said brig were with difficulty prevailed upon by the said R. T. to attend to his directions in endeavouring to save the said brig, but at last he succeeded in cheering up the said master and crew, and under his directions they hauled in the line and got the end of the capstan warp to which it was attached on board, and they then drove on the said wharf with the capstan ashore ; that finding from the heavy strain of the anchor and wharf, owing to the heavy pitching of the brig, that there was great apprehension of their parting, said R. T. signalled his boat to come off again, and sent the line by the said boat to the shore in order to be attached to another and larger capstan warp, which was done, got on board the brig the crew of said boat, and made it fast round the foremast of the said brig ; and just as they had so done, the brig's chain and warp at first brought off parted, and had it not been for the large warp so made fast as aforesaid, the said brig and cargo must have become a total wreck ; that the said R. T. and the crew of the said brig then hailed the people on shore to heave in the said brig by means of the second warp, which they did, and thereby got the brig under a close-reefed main topsail from her dangerous situation into deep water, but that very shortly afterwards, by the violence of the gale and the eddy of the wind and water, the said brig sheered against the

1844.
24th February.

THE
TOWAN.

1844.
24th February.

THE
TOWAN.

cliff and rocks and was much damaged thereby; that said R. T., by the aid of his boat's crew, then ran out two anchors to heave the said brig clear, and by means thereof got her a second time into deep water, upon which said R. T. directed the sails to be hoisted, and by such means, and by the assistance of the people on the cliffs, the said brig was eventually got up the harbour and ran upon the beach to prevent her sinking, she being nearly full of water; that in the service aforesaid the said R. T. and his boat's crew encountered very great risk, and but for their assistance the said brig and cargo must have perished, &c. &c. &c.

On the part of the owners it was expressly denied in the answer to the act that the weather was so tempestuous and that the brig made so much water as alleged by the salvors, or that there was any danger of the brig's being driven on shore upon entering the harbour of Padstow, or that there was any necessity for her dropping her anchor, or that when dropped she rode to the same in very great or any peril; on the contrary, that the brig, on reaching the entrance of the said harbour, came under the lee of the Steppar point, and thereby was protected from the wind and sea; and that she was proceeding along the proper channel with the flood tide safely and securely, when the master injudiciously and without any necessity dropped anchor, bringing up the said brig at the outer hedge of the Dunbar sand; that the brig having been so brought up, rode safely at single anchor about 80 or 100 fathoms from the shore, and with no breaking sea near her; neither was there any flag of distress hoisted as witness alleged. The reply having further denied in detail the several averments in the act on petition, and especially that there was any danger to the crew of the Towan or risk to the alleged

salvors in approaching and getting on board the ship or at any period of the transaction, concluded with the averment that the tackle so used in assisting the said brig on the said occasion belonged to an association called the Padstow Harbour Association, who have erected capstans and placed buoys at the entrance of the harbour ready for immediate use ; and that such corporation was managed by a committee of twelve, of whom the said R. T. is one ; that such committee, to whom it appertains to make out the charges against vessels so assisted, in so doing invariably apportion and award some recompence and remuneration, varying in amount according to the service performed, for boats and crews carrying out the lines and warps when necessary ; and that when such committee met for the purpose of making out their charges against the Towan, they awarded to the said R. T. and his boat's crew the sum of £12 as a sufficient remuneration of their services, to wit, £6 to the said R. T. for himself and the use of his boat, and £1 a-piece for each of his crew.

1844.
24th February.

THE
TOWAN.

The cause was argued by

Addams, for the owner of the Towan.

Haggard and Twiss, for the salvors.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

In questions of this kind discrepancies and contradictions to a certain extent must generally exist in the statements and the evidence on the one side and the other. The Court, however, in the majority of cases, finds but little difficulty in ascertaining the amount of the salvage compensation, with a reasonable conviction that no essential error or injustice will be committed by its decision. The present case, I am sorry

1844.
24th February.

THE
TOWAN.

to observe, furnishes an exception, and exhibits contradictions so manifest and palpable that I can discern no medium, no possibility of reconciling the evidence; and the only conclusion which I can form according to my own judgment, is either that the tender which has been made is utterly inadequate to the service performed, or that the salvors have set up a case, not only inflamed and exaggerated, but entirely inconsistent with the true state of the facts. The substance of the case set up by the salvors is, that the ship and cargo, and also the lives of the crew on board, were in imminent peril; that a consciousness of this impending peril was manifested by the hoisting a signal of distress, and that the rescue was effected at a moment when other aid had failed, and was attended with equally imminent risk and danger to the salvors themselves. If this statement be true, it cannot, I conceive, be doubted for a single moment that the tender of £24 is utterly and entirely inadequate to the danger encountered to the rescue of so many lives and the preservation of the whole of the property on board, although that property may not be of very large value. What then is the evidence before the Court in support of this statement? There is, in the first place, an affidavit sworn upon the 21st of November by Lewis, the late master of the Towan, in which he is joined by the whole of his crew; and in this affidavit, with the single exception of the hoisting a signal of distress, they do most fully support the act on petition, describing their own danger as most imminent, and the exertions of the salvors to rescue them as not less perilous. Now it is quite clear that no persons could be more competent from actual knowledge and experience to describe the facts correctly; and if this were an unopposed case as regards the

nature and extent of the salvor services, and the question was simply referred to the Court to fix the measure of the remuneration, I should at once come to the conclusion, upon the contents of this affidavit, that a far higher reward was due to the salvors than has been here tendered. But the nature or extent of the salvors' exertions is directly put in issue and denied on the part of the owners of the *Towan*; and is it not then a somewhat surprising circumstance to find the master and the whole of the crew thus coming forward to depose against the interest of the owner of the vessel?

It has sometimes happened that one or more of the crew, but very rarely the master, have been found to come forward, and so depose; but I cannot recollect a case in which the master and the whole of the crew have voluntarily united in directly opposing the interests of their employer, as those persons have done upon the present occasion. I must say that this circumstance necessarily awakens some suspicion in my mind, and this suspicion is increased when it turns out, as it does in this case, that, subsequent to the transaction in question, the master has been discharged from his employment, and that the whole crew were for some considerable period of time lodged as it were in the keeping of the salvors. If the master rested here, and nothing further had occurred, I should have viewed with great suspicion and distrust a statement supported by evidence of such a description; but there is an affidavit made upon the 5th of February at a later period of the cause, which, as far as the master is concerned, most clearly proves that he at least is altogether unworthy of credit, inasmuch that this second affidavit in substance, and to a considerable extent in words, negatives both the salvors'

1844.
24th February.

The
Towan.

1844.
24th February.

**The
Towan.**

act on petition and his own prior affidavit in denying all danger, and stating that no risk whatever was encountered by any one during the transaction. As far then as the master of the Towan is concerned, he is at once put out of Court by the effect of this second affidavit. It has, however, been argued, and not unfairly, that the evidence of the mate and the rest of the crew remained untouched, and that they were in a degree participants in the double and contradictory swearing of the master. Be it so; it must nevertheless be remembered that their statement, which they have come forward in common to support, is in some measure disparaged by the circumstance to which I have previously adverted, and that this disparagement is increased by the falsehood and misconduct of one of the individuals who joined with them in the affidavit. I now come to the affidavits marked No. 2 and No. 3 which comprise the evidence of the salvors themselves in support of their own statement. The affidavit No. 2 is the affidavit of Mr. Tredwin, the master, and is the affidavit he is joined by Lewis and White. This affidavit, as far as regards Mr. Tredwin himself, is entitled à priori to the credit usually given to the affidavits of salvors, and it not only supports the action on petition, but in some degree exceeds it. It is however, to be observed as a somewhat extraordinary feature in this affidavit, that Lewis and White, Mr. Tredwin's fellow deponents, do not depose to several important facts sworn to by Mr. Tredwin himself; as for example, the hoisting the signal of distress, the great apprehensions of danger exhibited by the persons on board, and their prayers to be rescued from that danger. It cannot be said that Lewis and White had sworn to those facts before, because no mention is made of them in the first affidavit No. 1.

The affidavit No. 3 is an affidavit made by Tredwin's boatmen; and the only observation I think it necessary to make upon it at present is, that it exceeds the act on petition, and goes beyond Tredwin's own affidavit, and in fact exceeds every statement in the cause, except one which is to be found in the affidavit of the coast guard men, marked No. 4. It does not appear whether any person was present who had the command of the coast guard; and, looking to the affidavit No. 4, I must say that it would have been much more satisfactory to me if I had been supplied with evidence from that quarter. The first part of the affidavit is nearly in the words of Tredwin's affidavit; the latter portion of it is evidently not what men in their condition of life would have spontaneously stated, but is made up of the rhetoric of an attorney's office and irrelevant hearsay.

No. 5 is the affidavit of four labourers, and it describes more minutely the refusal of the pilot to go out, and that an application was made to a person (not named) in charge of the life-boat to launch it, but that he refused, in consequence of the danger. In all other respects it closely resembles the affidavits of the boatmen and the coast guard men. The sixth and last affidavit to which I shall refer is the affidavit of Apps, the pilot, and of a person of the name of Mitchell, and, except as to the hoisting the signal of distress, it is nearly to the same effect as the affidavit sworn by Mr. Tredwin. I have now gone through the whole of the salvors' evidence, and what is the result? Leaving out of consideration the evidence of the master and crew of the Towan, the result is that the case which has been set up by the asserted salvors is, I think, still supported by much evidence which is not altogether undeserving of credit. At the same

1844.
24th February.

THE
TOWAN.

1844.
24th February.

THE
TOWAN.

time, there is one feature which pervades the case throughout, viz., that every affidavit on the part of the salvors is couched in terms of great exaggeration and in a tone wholly unnatural and inconsistent with the character of the deponents themselves. I must now briefly advert in conclusion to the case which has been set up by the owners of the vessel proceeded against, and in so doing it will be unnecessary that I should state their case in detail; it will be sufficient to notice the principal points which arise and the evidence relating to them. First, then, was the signal which was hoisted,—a signal of distress, or merely a signal for a pilot? This is a question of no small importance in the case, and the solution of it must in great measure depend upon the degree of danger which impended at the time; for if there did exist danger to life as well as property, it is only consistent with probability that there should have been a signal of distress. Looking to the evidence before the Court it is clear that the master and crew have not deposed that at any time a signal of distress was hoisted, and the evidence of the owners expressly negatives it. It is indeed stated in one of the salvors' affidavits, that the vessel had eight feet water in her hold; but there is no evidence to show that a single pump was at work during the whole transaction. None of the sails were gone; the rigging was in perfect order, and the vessel sailed well. Two of the witnesses moreover expressly negative danger of any kind, and state that it was only necessary to warp the vessel for a short distance, to enable her to get into the harbour of Padstow with perfect safety. Under all the circumstances, I am satisfied in my own mind that there was no danger whatever, and consequently that there was no signal of distress, but only a signal for a pilot.

n, as to the pilot boat, did she or did she not
ipt to reach the ship? It is pleaded in the reply
e act on petition on behalf of the owners, that
win himself took the line and pilot boat, and in
ffidavits it is stated that this was done by force.
not, however, pleaded that it was so done by
and I think I should not be justified, where the
has had no opportunity of answering the aver-
, in assuming that violence was actually used in
g possession of the line. I think that, in justice
r. Tredwin, I must not assume the fact as proved
cause; at the same time I think that the testi-
of Harris, and especially of Mitchell, sufficiently
adict the averment that the first boat could not
gone to the assistance of the vessel. There is
emaining circumstance to be noticed, viz., that
adstow Association considered the sum of £12 a
ient reward for the service in question, and that
ward was made in the presence of Mr. Tredwin.
undoubtedly Mr. Tredwin was not bound to
to any such award of the committee; at the
time it is an important ingredient in the case,
he committee, consisting of most competent per-
and sitting recenti facto in the presence of the
dual most interested, and who had full power and
tunity for explanation, pronounced an opinion
he service would be amply compensated by the
ent of the sum of £12.

o not consider it necessary to travel further into
vestigation of this case. I am perfectly satisfied
own judgment of the following facts:—
st, that no signal of distress was hoisted. Sec-
y, that after the vessel came to an anchor inside
ort, there was no peril to the vessel or danger to
ves of the crew. Thirdly, that there was no risk

1844.
24th February.

THE
TOWAN.

1844.
24th February.

**THE
TOWAN.**

in boarding her, and that this would have been done by the first pilot boat, if Mr. Tredwin had not interfered. Fourthly, that subsequent to the transaction, there was an improper resistance to the supersedeas, and even a gross attempt on the part of the salvors to retain possession of the vessel; and I will here state that if the possession had been retained after the supersedeas had gone down to Padstow, and been served upon the parties, I would most assuredly have attached every individual so engaged in resisting the authority of the Court. Lastly, I am of opinion that the arrest of the vessel in the sum of £450 was unreasonable and oppressive, and I think the tender which has been made, under all the circumstances of the case, is ample and sufficient for the services which have been performed.

I therefore pronounce for the tender, and with costs against the salvors, hoping and trusting that this example will prevent the reiteration of similar experiments in future. The whole of the proceedings convince me of the necessity of watching with great vigilance, not to say suspicion, transactions of this description in distant ports, and of protecting owners and underwriters from, what I consider in the present case, an attempt at extortion, supported by the concoction of evidence so strong that its very strength destroys its effect and credibility.

9th March.

Where a
steamer coming
down the river
upon a dark
night meets a

THE JAMES WATT. CULLEN.

THIS was a cause of damage promoted by the owners of the schooner Perseverance, against the James Watt steam ship.

An action was brought in the Court of Exchequer by the owners of the steam vessel, and a cross action in behalf of the owners of the Perseverance was also instituted in the same Court, and was still pending when the suit was commenced in the Court of Admiralty. Upon an affidavit stating these facts, a motion was made to the Court to dismiss the General Steam Navigation Company from further observance of justice in the suit, but this motion was rejected. The proceedings were by plea and proof, and the bill of the plaintiff, which consisted of eight articles, substance set forth—That the schooner Perseverance, belonging to the port of Exeter, in the prosecution of a voyage from Exeter to London, was sought to anchor abreast the Black Tail Beacon below the Nore at six p. m. of the 30th September, bat at half-past twelve a. m. of the 1st of October she was got under weigh, and made all sail, working windward, with moderate winds from the N. W. by N., and about fifty minutes past one a. m. was struck from the north shore on the starboard tack to the southward. That the morning was bright, and the vessels could be clearly distinguished about half a mile distant, and all hands were on deck keeping good look-out. That the schooner continued on the tack aforesaid, reaching across with all sails set and those hauled, going at the rate of about two knots an hour until two o'clock a. m., the Nore light being at such time S. W. by W. half W. when a steam ship (the James Watt) was perceived from the schooner about half a mile distant, and approaching her down the reach at the rate of between eight or ten knots an hour, whereupon all hands on board the schooner loudly and repeatedly hailed those on board the

1844.
9th March.

THE
JAMES WATT.

sailing vessel beating up the river, and the master of the steamer is in doubt what course the sailing vessel is upon, it is the duty of the master of the steamer to ease her engines and to slacken his speed, until he ascertains the course of the sailing vessel.

A defence—that the master of the steamer, under the circumstances, immediately put her helm to port, in compliance with the Trinity House regulations—not sustained.

1844.
9th March.

THE
JAMES WATT.

steamer to starboard her helm, but that no notice whatsoever was taken of such hailings until about half a minute before the collision, when those on board the steam ship called out to the crew of the schooner to port her helm, but which had already been done to prevent the steam ship running over the schooner amidships. That immediately afterward the steamer, in attempting to cross the bows of the schooner, struck her larboard bow a tremendous blow against the starboard bow of the steam ship, cutting her down nearly to the water's edge, and doing other considerable damage. That the said collision was solely and entirely caused by the fault and mismanagement of the crew of the steam ship, &c. &c.

An allegation consisting of fourteen articles was brought in by the owners of the steam ship in reply and the substance of the defence which it set up was—That at the time the schooner was first observed, the morning was dark and hazy on the water, so that it was impossible for the persons on board the steamer to see what course the schooner was steering. That there were two lights hoisted on board the steamer, one at the mast head, and the other at the bowsprit end, which lights were plainly visible at the distance of a mile and a half at least, and would have clearly indicated to any vessel coming in an opposite direction the course which the steam ship was steering. That the watch of the James Watt consisted of seven men, who were all on deck, and upon the lookout at the time, and immediately the schooner was discovered, the men on the bows called out ship ahead, upon which the captain immediately ordered them to port the helm, and ease the engines, and both of these orders were immediately obeyed. That finding the schooner was still keeping her course, and

over to the southward, the captain then ordered
m to be put hard a-port, and both engines to
ped. The crew of the steamer, who were upon
t the same time hailing the crew of the schooner
her helm likewise, whereby the schooner would
one about, the steam ship's course having been
by the portings of her helm aforesaid. That
ortly after the helm of the steamer had been
rd a-port, the schooner, with all her sail set
l, and without at all easing or backing them,
the force of the collision might have been
l, came head on into the steam ship, striking
mer a violent blow just before the paddle box
larboard side, carrying away her bulwarks,
ing her other damage. That the schooner
om the time of her being first seen until the
a took place, under full command, and would,
r helm been put to port, as it ought to have
ave gone about, whereby she would have got
to the strength of the tide, and the said collision
have been avoided, and that the collision was
ed by the fault and mismanagement of the
f the schooner, and was not attributable, as
to the default of the steam ship, &c. &c.

1844.
9th March.
THE
JAMES WATT.

cause was argued by
ams and Robinson, for the owners of the steam

m's Advocate and Haggard, for the schooner.

er Curiam.—DR. LUSHINGTON.
lemen, two important facts in this case admit
oubt whatever. It is clear, in the first place,
on the morning when the collision took place,

1844.
9th March.

THE
JAMES WATT.

the Perseverance, the vessel proceeding in the cause, was beating up the river with an adverse wind; whether from the N. W. by W., as stated on behalf of the Perseverance, or W. N. W., as stated by the steamer is immaterial. It is also equally clear, that in order to beat up the river, she was upon the starboard tack close hauled, and was sailing towards the south shore, and as near to the shore as the state of the wind and weather would permit. Whilst pursuing his course as stated, at about a quarter past twelve noon she discovered the steamer coming down the river at some distance from her. With respect to the actual distance at which the steamer was first observed, there is some discrepancy in the affidavits of the witnesses in the case. I do not, however, consider that any imputation attaches upon them upon this account, because I conceive that it is impossible under circumstances of this kind to fix any standard by which the admeasurement of distances at sea can be ascertained with correctness. It is sworn, and there is nothing to contradict this averment, that at this time the crew of the Perseverance were all on them upon the deck, and thus much I take to be perfectly clear, viz. that the Perseverance would have discerned the steamer at a much greater distance than the steamer could have seen the schooner for two reasons, first, because the Perseverance was so much smaller in bulk; and, secondly, because the steamer carried two brilliant lights, which would be more especially discernible by reason of the darkness of the night. The Perseverance then being thus close hauled, and upon the starboard tack, and perceiving the steamer coming down the river, what does she do? It cannot be doubted that she had ample time to put about, if that was the right measure to be

adopted ; but, not knowing what course the steamer might take, she keeps her course in the first instance. The question arises was she right or wrong in so doing ? As far as I am enabled to form any opinion upon the matter, she was perfectly right. And I conceive that very great inconvenience would arise, if vessels of her description, beating up the river, and being close hauled, should put about the moment a steamer is seen, and before it can be ascertained what course the steamer is likely to take.

Let us pursue the progress of the affair :—As the two vessels are approaching towards each other, the crew of the Perseverance perceive that the helm of the steamer had been put to port, and as soon as they perceive it, they put their own helm immediately a-port likewise. This measure is not inculpated by the persons on board the steamer, because they called upon her so to do, and in my apprehension it was the only measure that could have been adopted under the circumstances to diminish the impending evil. It is said, however, that there was ample time for the schooner to have put about between the time when the helm of the steamer was first ported and the collision took place. In order to ascertain this, we must look to the evidence of those on board the steamer, for of course it was impossible for the crew of the Perseverance to perceive that the helm of the schooner had been altered until after it had actually been put to port, and not even then at the very moment. Now the evidence of all the persons on board the steamer distinctly establishes the fact, that two minutes did not intervene between the time when they hailed the Perseverance to port her helm, and the actual collision. Under this state of circumstances I shall refer to your judgment whether the Perseverance was in

1844.
9th March.
THE
JAMES WATT.

1844.
9th March.

THE
JAMES WATT.

any degree to blame for the conduct she adopted, candidly stating my own opinion that she was not. I must now advert to the case which is set up on behalf of the steamer; and in order to do perfect justice to the owners of that vessel, I will take the account which is given by the master himself of the course which was adopted on board the James Watt. In his deposition in chief upon the second article, he states that "at about a quarter past two, or after eight bells had been struck, one of the two men who were on the look-out at the bows (by name Hely and Maybank) called out, a vessel on the larboard bow." He says, "I was at that moment on the bridge, and turning my attention to my left I perceived an object without making out what it was—it bore about two points on our larboard bow, and I repeated forward "I see it." He then goes on to describe the course the steamer was sailing, and the extreme darkness of the night; and after stating that it was so hazy on the water that he could not distinctly make out what the object was which was seen approaching, nor what course it was standing on, he further states in these words "Immediately after my answering the men at the bow by saying, I see it, as aforesaid, I turned aft and called out to the wheel, *port*, and was answered, por it is." Now let us consider whether under these circumstances he ought or ought not to have ported his helm. He was in doubt; that is his own statement. It is also admitted in his answer to the fifth interrogatory, that if it had been daylight, the general rule would have been that the steamer should have gone stern of the Perseverance. Why then did he port his helm? The answer is thus supplied in his own words in a subsequent part of the same interrogatory. He says, "In the daytime the James Watt, seeing

the course of the schooner, was bound to go a-stern of her; but being in doubt, by reason of the darkness, I considered it my duty to port my helm and stop my engines." It has been said that in so porting his helm he followed the rule laid down by the Trinity House Board. I must confess that I do not see the application of this rule under the circumstances above stated. True it is, that when two steam vessels are approaching each other, it has been ruled over and over again that they are to pass larboard and larboard; but I have never yet heard it laid down that when a steam vessel is going down the river, and she discovers a sailing vessel coming up the river with an adverse wind, the steamer is immediately to port her helm, before she discovers what course such vessel is upon. In my apprehension, the master of the James Watt would have acted, under the circumstances, with greater prudence and caution if, upon first discovering the Perseverance, instead of porting his helm, he had continued his course at slackened speed, by easing his engines, till he was able to discover the course the Perseverance was steering, and then acting according to circumstances. If he had pursued this course, it is apparent from the evidence of Maybank, that in the short space of about a minute after the sail was reported, or according to Hely a minute and a half from that time, he would have discovered the course of the Perseverance, and could have adopted the measures that might altogether have prevented the collision.

Some discussion has been raised in the argument of this case, whether the collision took place in consequence of the steamer running into the Perseverance, or the latter vessel running foul of the steamer in the first instance.

1844.
9th March.
THE
JAMES WATT.

1844.
9th March.

THE
JAMES WATT.

In point of law, I apprehend the consideration of this matter would be altogether immaterial to the issue in this cause, because I take it to be the established principle of law, that if a collision is occasioned by the fault of one vessel, it is not of the least importance which vessel strikes the other in the first instance. The true question is, what vessel is to blame in causing the collision? If it were necessary for the purposes of justice in this suit to pursue the enquiry upon this point, I must say that the probabilities are strongly in favour of the representation made on behalf of the Perseverance. Here is a schooner of seventy-six tons, going at the rate of about two knots an hour close hauled, and in the act of throwing herself into stays at the moment of the collision, and yet this vessel goes with such force against the steamer as by her own act to cause all the damage that has ensued. Without professing to be very conversant with the details of nautical matters in general, I must say that this representation, upon the face of it, is not very probable, or easily to be credited.

Having now, gentlemen, adverted to all the circumstances of the case which appear to me to be important for your consideration, you will have the kindness to tell which of these two vessels is to blame. You will also recollect, that the master distinctly says that in his opinion, in a case of doubt, it was his duty to port his helm, an opinion which in my judgment is not conformable with the rules which have been laid down for the navigation of vessels under the circumstances of the present case.

Trinity Masters were of opinion that the Perseverance was in no degree to blame, and that the collision was occasioned entirely by the default and misma-

nagement of the James Watt, in attempting to cross the bows of the Perseverance; that if she had acted properly she would have gone under her stern, and then the accident would have been thereby avoided.

1844.
9th March.

THE
JAMES WATT.

Damage pronounced for.

THE GAZELLE (a). HURST.

9th March.

IN this case, which was originally a cause of damage by collision, promoted by the owners of the brig Charles, the Court, assisted by Trinity Masters, pronounced for the damage, and condemned the Gazelle in the amount of the same and of the costs. A reference in the usual form was directed to the registrar and merchants, and a report having been brought in, certain items in the report were now objected to on behalf of the owners of the Charles. The principal and most important of the objections are noticed in detail in the observations of the Court.

Objections to registrar's report.—A deduction by the registrar and merchants of one-third for the full amount of the repairs and of the cost of new articles, in consideration of new articles being substituted for old, not sustained by the Court.

In fixing the amount of demurrage to be paid for the detention of the vessel during the repairs, a deduction must be made from the gross freight of so much as would in ordinary cases be disbursed on account of the ship's expenses in the earning of the freight.

Report sent back to be reconsidered.

In support of the registrar's report, *Addams* and *Harding*.

In support of the objections, *Haggard* and *Jenner*.

Per Curiam.—DR. LUSHINGTON.

In this case, which was originally a cause of collision, the Court pronounced for the damage sued for, and directed the amount to be ascertained in the usual form, viz., by a reference to the registrar and merchants. The registrar having made his report in obedience to the Court's directions, various items in this report have been objected to on behalf of the

(a) Vide supra, vol. i. p. 471.

1844.
9th March.

THE
GAZETTE.

owners of the vessel proceeding in the cause, and the Court is now called upon to determine the validity of the objections which have been thus raised. One of the principal and most important objections to the report under consideration is this, that the registrars and merchants, in fixing the amount to be paid for repairs and the supply of new articles in lieu of those which have been damaged or destroyed, have deducted one-third from the full amount which such repairs and new articles would cost. This deduction, it is said, has been made in consideration of new materials being substituted for old, and is justified upon the principle of a rule which is alleged to be invariably adopted in cases of insurance. The first question then which I have to consider is the applicability of the rule in question to a case of the present description; and this question, it is obvious, involves a principle of considerable importance, not only as regards the decision in this particular case, but as establishing a rule for assessing the damages in all other similar cases. Now in my apprehension, a material distinction exists between cases of insurance and cases of damage by collision, and for the following reasons:—With respect to all policies of insurance, I apprehend that the cases are cases of contract. In the construction and regulation of such contracts, all the customs of merchants founded in equity are always considered as forming a part of the contracts themselves; and the presumption is that all merchants are cognizant of the customs existing in their own particular vocations, and have them in contemplation in all contracts which they may enter into in their several transactions of business.

In the immediate case, for instance, of a policy of insurance upon a ship, the shipowner who insures his

vessel is aware of the custom in question, and at the time the insurance is effected he knows that he pays a smaller premium for the insurance, in consideration of the deduction to be made in case of loss or damage to his ship. If such loss or damage ensue thereupon, he cannot claim to receive more than the custom sanctions and allows; and in recovering the amount of his loss, minus the deduction of the one-third, he in point of fact receives all that he agreed to receive in pursuance of the contract which he entered into with the underwriter.

With regard to cases of collision, it is to be observed that they stand upon a totally different footing. The claim of the suffering party who has sustained the damage arises not *ex contractu*, but *ex delicto* of the party by whom the damage has been done; and the measure of the indemnification is not limited by the terms of any contract, but is co-extensive with the amount of the damage. The right against the wrong-doer is for a *restitutio in integrum*, and this restitution he is bound to make without calling upon the party injured to assist him in any way whatsoever. If the settlement of the indemnification be attended with any difficulty (and in those cases difficulties must and will frequently occur), the party in fault must bear the inconvenience. He has no right to fix this inconvenience upon the injured party; and if that party derives incidentally a greater benefit than mere indemnification, it arises only from the impossibility of otherwise effecting such indemnification without exposing him to some loss or burthen, which the law will not place upon him.

Having thus far endeavoured to elucidate the principle which governs the two classes of cases, I will now shortly advert to the authority of the case which was

1844.
9th March.
THE
GAZETTE.

1844.
9th March.

THE
GAZETTE.

cited in the argument by the learned counsel for the owners of the Charles, and if I find that in the courts of common law the principle has been applied to any case *ex delicto* in the manner to which I have referred, it will be my duty to adopt and apply the same principle in this and future cases of the like kind, more especially as I do not find that in the practice of this Court there has been any such consistent and uniform course of practice as would militate against its introduction. Since the case was argued, I have caused inquiry to be made into the case of *Hare v. Beckington*, and I find that the learned counsel was perfectly correct in his representation of what fell from the learned judge who decided that case. The words of Mr. Justice Cresswell were to this effect: "When a man runs down a vessel, he cannot claim an abatement of one-third for old materials; it is different in insurance cases, because there it is an understood part of the contract." I do not find that any attempt has been made to impeach the law as thus laid down by Mr. Justice Cresswell. I shall therefore adopt the principle in the present instance, and refer back the report to the registrar and merchants to be amended with respect to the several items or sets of claims in which the deduction of one-third has been made for the new materials supplied.

I now come to another important item in the report which has been made the subject of objection in the present instance. It appears that the owners of the Charles, in estimating the amount of their indemnification, have claimed the sum of £94 : 10s. for demurrage in the detention of the brig during the repairs. This claim has been disallowed in the report, and the question arises, what is the principle upon which compensation is to be allowed for the detention of a vessel under the circumstance of the case.

Now I apprehend that the party who has suffered the injury is clearly entitled to an adequate compensation for any loss he may sustain for the detention of his vessel during the period which is necessary for the completion of the repairs and the furnishing new articles.

It has been argued by the counsel for the plaintiff in this suit, that in framing the amount of this compensation the same principle must be adopted as prevails in cases of insurance; and the Court has been referred to the case of *Palmer v. Blackburn*, in which the gross freight was allowed without any deduction on account of necessary expenses. The result of the decision in that case was, that by the allowance of gross freight the party was actually benefited by the loss of the vessel, because he took the whole of the freight, amounting to £3068, without any deduction whatever, although, if the voyage had been successfully performed, the actual deduction to be made for expenses would have amounted to £700. Now upon what ground was the decision in the case of *Palmer v. Blackburn* founded? The case was tried before Lord Chief Justice Dallas, Mr. Justice Park, and Mr. Justice Burrough. Lord Chief Justice Dallas doubted the propriety of the determination, and wished to have had the opportunity of further consideration upon it; and in concluding his judgment he says, "I think the point of considerable importance, and worthy of further consideration." Mr. Justice Park and Mr. Justice Burrough were of opinion that the rule adopted in policies of insurance was applicable to the case. The words of Mr. Justice Park were, "The jury have found that upon policies freight has always been settled in this manner, and my experience entirely coincides with that finding." Mr.

1844.
9th March.
THE
GAZELLE.

1844.
9th March.
THE
GAZETTE.

Justice Burrough said, "In questions on policies of insurance, the course has always been to ascertain the custom of merchants. The jury having found, and properly found, this to be the custom of merchants, the verdict must be in conformity with such finding."

From these observations of the learned judges, it appears that the ground upon which this decision was founded was the custom of merchants, which, as I have already observed, is always considered in policies of insurance as forming a part of the contract itself. In the present case the claim arises not *ex contractu* but *ex delicto*; the principle, therefore, which governed the case of *Palmer v. Blackburn* does not apply. In estimating the amount of the compensation to be paid for the detention of the vessel, I conceive that the same principle must be adopted as I have applied in the case of the deduction of the one-third, viz. the principle of putting the suffering party as nearly as possible in the same situation in which he would have been if no collision had taken place. Deducting, therefore, from the gross freight so much as would in ordinary cases be disbursed on account of expenses in the earning of the freight, I shall refer back this item to the registrar and merchants for their further consideration and correction. With respect to the remaining items which have been brought under the notice of the Court, they are comparatively far less important, and the Court is not in possession of sufficient evidence to form any judgment respecting them. The item No. 6 is a claim for the sum of £6 : 14s. for stationery, postage, grocery, bread, flour and tarpaulins. This item has been disallowed by the registrar and merchants, as I understand, upon the ground that there was not sufficient proof of the loss, and that some of the articles were bought after the time when the repairs were com-

pleted. If this be so, the registrar and merchants have properly rejected the claim upon this ground. The affidavit in support of the claim is not sufficiently specific to justify the Court in disturbing this part of the report. If the affidavit had been more specific, the Court might have been inclined to reconsider the objection; but as the onus is upon the party objecting to show that his exceptions are well founded, if he fails to furnish sufficient grounds to establish his objection, I must of necessity sustain this item in the report as it stands. The item No. 10 is open to the same observation; it includes a claim for £7 for three cwt. of beef, and in the affidavit it is simply sworn to in the same manner, and without stating how, when and where the money was expended. It is impossible for the Court to take notice of a claim so barely supported, because it is nothing simply to aver that the expense has been incurred. The question is whether it was properly incurred, and whether the party against whom it is charged is liable for the payment. Another item is to the following effect:—Owner's expenses to London, Norwich, &c., £15. From this sum the registrar and merchants have deducted the sum of £5.

In the absence of any voucher for the actual expenditure of the sum so charged, and of any explicit statement that it was proper and necessary to be incurred, I certainly am not disposed to interfere with the deduction which has been made by the registrar and merchants. The registrar and merchants, I conceive, have founded their deduction upon the consideration of what appeared to them a just and proper sum to be allowed for the execution of those measures which were imposed upon the owner in order to obtain a proper settlement of his case; and I must say, that

1844
9th March.

THE
GAZETTE.

*1844.
9th March.*

*The
GAZETTE.*

as far as I am enabled to form any opinion upon the question, the sum of £10 does appear to me to be a liberal and sufficient allowance.

With respect to the remaining items in the registrar's report, which have been commented upon in the argument at the bar, I do not think it necessary to advert to them more specifically in detail upon the present occasion. The objection which has been raised against them is not very important, and as it is my intention to refer the report back to be generally reviewed by the registrar and merchants, they will have the opportunity of reconsidering them, and of regulating them according to the doctrines which I have endeavoured to lay down, if it should happen that an erroneous principle has been applied.

THE MATHESIS. ALEXANDER GORDON.

26th April.

MOTION.

Where an attachment from the Court of Admiralty, backed by the Lord Ordinary's concurrence, had been executed upon a person resident in Scotland, and the person so attached had been brought to England and committed to the Queen's Bench prison, the Court directed a supersedeas and the party to be released, upon the ground that the Lord Ordinary of Scotland had

IN this case the vessel the Mathesis was originally arrested in a cause of interest at the suit of a partner of thirty sixty-fourth parts, until bail should be given to answer the safe return of the ship to the port of Aberdeen, to which she belonged. Whilst under the custody of the Court she was forcibly taken out of the possession of the Court's officer and carried to sea at the instigation of A. Gordon (also a partner of the remaining thirty-four sixty-fourth shares, against whom a warrant of attachment was decreed for contempt of Court in so doing). The said J. G., it appeared, was resident in Scotland at the time the attachment was issued, and the warrant of the Court of Admiralty having been backed by the concurrence of the Lord Ordinary of Scotland, J. G. was arrested

rhead, in Scotland, and brought back to England when a second attachment was served upon him he was committed to the Queen's Bench

1844.
26th April.

THE
MATHESIS.

subsequently revoked his concurrence as illegal, and as granted periculoso petentis et per incuriam.

Subsequent to the arrest of said J. G. processes were instituted on his behalf before the Court of Session in Scotland, and the Lord Ordinary having obtained counsel on his behalf, and also on behalf of the parties to whose suit the attachment in this Court had been taken out and executed, revoked his original concurrence to the service of the attachment and directed the immediate liberation of the prisoner.

Under these circumstances the Court was now called to supersede its warrant of attachment and to direct the liberation of J. G., in conformity with the decree pronounced in the Lord Ordinary of Scotland's decree.

The motion was supported by *Addams*, on behalf of J. Gordon.

Opposed by *Phillimore*, A. A.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

In the circumstances of the case had allowed me the liberty, I should have deferred to deliver my judgment for the purpose of considering the arguments which have been addressed to the Court upon the present occasion. When, however, I recollect that the liberty of a British subject is involved in the question in issue, I deem it my duty to declare my judgment at once, without taking time for further deliberation. It appears that the vessel the *Mathesis*, lying in the port of Swansea, was arrested under the process of this Court in a cause of giving chase she proceeded to sea. At the time of the arrest, therefore, she was clearly within the jurisdiction

1844.
26th April.

THE
MATHEWS.

tion of the High Court of Admiralty, and no question was raised as to the issuing of the warrant or the detention of the vessel in the custody of the Court. It further appears, that whilst so in custody of the Court, Mr. James Gordon, the party on whose behalf the present application has been made, took possession of the vessel and removed her from the keeping of the officer of the Court, and in so doing he was manifestly guilty of a great and grievous offence, and one which rendered him amenable to the attachment of the Court. What might be the effect of such conduct, unless the Court possessed the authority of so attaching the party committing such an offence? In a case of bottomry, for example, where the vessel and her appurtenances form the primary security of the bottomry bondholder, and the arrest of the vessel is in this Court, the only mode of enforcing the payment of the bond, if the conduct pursued by Mr. Gordon could be pursued with impunity, the jurisdiction of the Court might be set at defiance and the attainment of justice be entirely defeated. The same observation would apply with respect to cases of possession and also to cases of salvage. I am therefore clearly of opinion that the conduct of Mr. Gordon was such as imperatively demanded the prompt interference of the Court; and when that conduct was duly brought under the Court's notice and verified by affidavit, the Court felt no hesitation in immediately directing the attachment to issue in the exercise of its ordinary jurisdiction. It is unnecessary for me here to attempt to define what are the limits of the jurisdiction of this Court in questions of this description. The reported decisions of the Court show that attachments have been sent to be executed in various quarters of the globe, and I apprehend that

there is no limitation whatever as to the place in which they may be served, provided they be served with the concurrence and according to the law of the country in which it is attempted to put them in force. If a warrant of attachment issued from this Court was served in France, with the concurrence of the authorities of that country, and the party against whom the warrant was issued was legally brought within the jurisdiction of this Court, I should have no hesitation in signing his commitment. In the present case the Court does not claim, and could not claim, any admiralty jurisdiction within the kingdom of Scotland. By a recent statute, 1st of Will. 4, c. 69, the jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty in Scotland has been transferred to the Court of Session in that kingdom, but in no respect has it been transferred to the High Court of Admiralty of England. It is therefore abundantly clear that the attachment in question in this case could not have been legally served in Scotland, save with the concurrence and through the authority of those who are legally authorized to exercise that authority in Scotland. The first question then which I must consider in the present instance is, what concurrence has been given—what concurrence has been withdrawn by the Court of Session in Scotland, and if an appeal from that Court is pending, how far that circumstance ought to influence my present judgment.

Now the proceedings of the Courts in Scotland in reference to this matter, as they are disclosed in the authentic papers before the Court, appear to have been these: Mr. Gordon being resident in Scotland, the attachment issued by the direction of this Court was laid before the Lord Ordinary Robertson, and he gave his immediate concurrence to the execution of

1844.
26th April.
THE
MATHEWS.

1844.
26th April.

THE
MATHEWS.

that attachment, thereby adding the sanction of the Court in Scotland to the authority of the Court of Admiralty in England, which, without such sanction, would, as I have already stated, in Scotland have been of no effect. By virtue of this concurrence Mr. Gordon was without loss of time arrested at Peterhead and conveyed to this country; and subsequent to his arrest, a note of suspension, as it is termed, was addressed on his behalf to the Lords of Council and Session, complaining of the illegality of the arrest and praying an interdict and order for his liberation Upon the 3d of June the question was argued before the Lord Ordinary, and it appears that the Lord Ordinary, upon consideration of the facts of the case as stated, made his decree in these words :—" The Lord Ordinary, having heard counsel for the suspender and also counsel for the respondent Alexander Morice, for whom appearance was made, and having also considered the note of suspension and liberation, together with a copy of the application by the respondent stated to have been made to the Lord Ordinary on the bills on the 27th day of May last, and on which a concurrence was, as a matter of form, subscribed by the Lord Ordinary on the 28th day of May, without the matter having in any way been brought under the consideration of the Lord Ordinary or his attention called to the same, in respect that there is no ground or law set forth in the said copy of the petition which would have induced the Lord Ordinary to have granted the same concurrence if he had been aware of the grounds on which the said application was made, and that the same was granted periculopotentis et per incuriam ; and also in respect of the nature of the English warrant sought to be carried into execution, and of the nature of the execution

demanded thereon, passes the note without caution or consignation, grants warrant for the immediate liberation of the complainant as craved, and continues the interdict."

It does not appear upon the face of the documents before the Court what was the nature of the representation which was made to the Lord Ordinary on behalf of Mr. Morice, the party who had originally sued out the attachment. Whatever it might have been, the effect of the decree, it is obvious, was an order for the immediate liberation of Mr. Gordon.

Under this state of circumstances I have now to determine the course which it is the duty of this Court to adopt, and in forming my opinion I must bear it in mind that the Lord Ordinary expressly states in his decree that he was altogether unaware of the nature of the writ issued by this Court at the time he gave his concurrence to its execution in Scotland, and that if he had been apprised of its contents and the nature of the case, he should not have considered himself justified in law in proceeding as he did; this he states upon deliberation, and after having heard the case argued upon both sides. Now when a warrant issued by the High Court of Admiralty is executed in a foreign country by the comity of the law of that country, I conceive it to be my duty, as judge of the Court from which the warrant issued, to consider whether the consent of the foreign authorities is conceded upon deliberation, or whether, as stated by the Lord Ordinary in this case, that concurrence is obtained *periculo patentis et per incuriam*. I also further from this case apprehend that I should not be at liberty to avail myself of that concurrence where the sanction is given unadvisedly or *per incuriam*. If, therefore, the case rested here, I should be of opinion

1844.
26th April.
THE
MATHEMATICIAN.

1844.
26th April.

THE
MATHEMATICIAN.

that as the Lord Ordinary of Scotland, in which country the warrant has been executed, states that in his judgment the attachment ought not to have been enforced in that country, I should be bound to pay respect and deference to that judgment upon the present occasion, and this upon the principle of justice as well as of public polity; for how could this or any other Court in this country expect the aid and assistance of foreign jurisdictions unless it paid deference to their forms of proceedings, and never attempted to give force to and execute its warrants, in derogation of and contrary to the legal customs and usages of the country in which it is sought to enforce them.

It has been urged upon the Court by the counsel for Mr. Morice, that the retraction of the Lord Ordinary's concession cannot be considered as conclusive in the present instance, inasmuch that an appeal has been lodged against the Lord Ordinary's decree, and is at this moment pending before the Inner Court before whom the whole question will be re-argued. This fact undoubtedly adds another difficulty in the case; and the question arises, ought I for the reason suggested to detain this individual in custody under this attachment? I think not, and for this reason that this Court has no means of ascertaining how long it may be before the question can be re-argued and finally discussed and determined before the judges of the Inner Court; and sure I am that, unless I were perfectly satisfied that the decision would be given in a very short space of time, I should be most reluctant to deprive a British subject of his liberty during the interval that must intervene.

Another suggestion has been urged on behalf of Mr. Morice, which remains to be considered in conclusion. It has been said that, however wrongfull

Mr. Gordon may have been arrested under the original attachment which was served upon him in Scotland; yet that a second attachment has been executed upon him since his arrival in this country, and that in virtue of that attachment he is now legally in custody and duly within the control of this Court. I must confess that I cannot accede to the force or propriety of this suggestion. If Mr. Gordon has been wrongly brought by the process of the Court from a country where he was legally secure from the enforcement of that process (it is true with the concurrence of a judge of that country, but a concurrence since recalled,) it would, I conceive, be contrary to all principles of justice to enforce a fresh attachment upon him upon the plea of his being thus compulsorily located within the jurisdiction of the Court at the time when the second attachment was executed upon him. If I were to decree his release from the former attachment, because there was not sufficient authority to back the warrant in Scotland, and allow him to be arrested and detained upon the second attachment, it would be an illusory proceeding and a mockery of justice. My opinion therefore is, that I must order the immediate release of Mr. Gordon, and although I may regret that justice is thereby likely to be defeated in the present instance, yet I am the more disposed to adopt this course, upon the consideration that if this Court should err in liberating the prisoner, and the Inner Court in Scotland should reverse the interlocutory decree of the Lord Ordinary, it will be competent to the Court immediately to re-execute the attachment, and he will be brought to this country and recommitted with safety to all parties. It is in my opinion much better that some additional inconvenience and expense should be incurred, than that Mr. Gordon

1844.
26th April.
THE
MATHEWS.

1844.
*26th April.**THE
MATHEWS.*

should be detained until the appeal has been heard and it should turn out that the interlocutory decree of the Lord Ordinary is affirmed, and that he has consequently been unjustly and illegally detained. Upon this consideration, therefore, I shall direct the prisoner to be liberated.

23d May.

Defence in a suit for salvage, that the salvors undertook to perform the alleged service for a stipulated reward, overruled, as contrary to the probabilities of the case; sensible, where steamers go out of port for the express purpose of rendering assistance to vessels represented to be in distress, the time and expense incurred in reaching the vessel is to be taken into the calculation in fixing the amount of the salvage remuneration.

THE GRACES.

THIS was a cause of salvage under the circumstances fully noticed in the judgment of the Court.

Addams and Bayford, for the salvors.

Queen's Advocate and Nicholl, for the owners.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

There are two points in this case to which the attention of the Court must be especially directed; the first is, whether any valid and binding agreement was entered into between these parties; and secondly, assuming that no such agreement existed, whether the tender of £3, which has been offered, is an adequate remuneration for the services which have been rendered. In order to ascertain these points, it is necessary that I should briefly examine some of the facts of the case which have been discussed upon the present occasion.

The vessel, it appears, is of 197 tons burthen, and was bound in ballast from London to the port of Seham. Upon the 5th of December, having reached the coast of Yorkshire, she met with an accident whereby she lost part of her foremast. Having remedied this accident as far as it was in her power, she

made an attempt, not to reach Seaham, her port of destination, but Shields, where her owners resided, and where she intended to refit, and finding it impossible to reach Shields upon the tack she was then sailing, she wore round and sailed for the south until she reached Huntcliffe Foot, where she cast anchor, and according to her own account in such a position that a signal for assistance might be seen from the shore.

Whilst lying in this position she was observed by a pilot of the name of Fox, and he, as he states, apprehending that she was in a state of distress, and perceiving a signal for assistance hoisted, determined to proceed across the country to Middlesborough, a distance of eight miles, for the purpose of giving information to the steamers there, in order that they might go out and perform the service, whatever it was which the signal was intended to indicate. It appears that the signal was hoisted as early as eight o'clock in the morning, and that no steamer came out until three o'clock in the afternoon. The distance is represented as being, and there is no controversy upon the point, eighteen miles. If this vessel then was lying as described by herself, in such a position that any signal hoisted by her would be descried by the steam vessels in the river Tees, I am unable to discover any satisfactory reason why some vessel did not observe that signal, if wind and weather were ordinarily moderate and fair, and proceed to render the assistance at a much earlier period than any attempt to do so was made in the present instance. Whatever may be the reason, it is perfectly clear that no vessel did proceed to render assistance until the Pilot, a steamer of sixty-horse power, in consequence of the information received from Fox, and not of perceiving

1844.
23d May.

THE
GRACES.

1844.
23d May.

THE
GRACES.

any signal, leaves the port of Middlesborough and proceeds to the Graces, lying at Huntcliffe Foot. Now what is the state and condition of the vessel at this time? It is admitted that she had lost a part of her foremast, and it is represented on the part of the salvors that she was in consequence thereof in a disabled state. On the part of the owners, on the other hand, it is alleged, that although damaged by the accident she had met with, she was in no degree disabled, and that she was capable of navigating to any port for which the wind was favourable, and to which she might have got with facility. In my view of the case I apprehend that the condition of the vessel is not properly to be described as disabled, or as in a state of immediate danger in consequence of the accident in question. At the same time I conceive that supposing the ordinary contingencies occurred of a change of wind and weather, contingencies not unlikely to occur at the season of the year when this transaction took place, the vessel would, in case of foul weather, have been exposed to greater risk and danger than if the accident had never happened, and therefore she is not to be considered in the light of a vessel which had met with no misfortune. I now come to the conversation which is represented to have been held upon the Pilot steamboat arriving alongside the schooner, and I must examine the effect of this conversation, which has been contended to constitute an agreement between the parties.

Now I entirely accede to the position laid down by one of the learned counsel who have addressed the Court, viz., that if a conversation takes place between two parties, and in pursuance of that conversation an act is done which is in fact the commencement of a transaction, where the evidence establishes the point,

the Court must assume the existence of an agreement, and the party is not at liberty to recede from the effects of such agreement. For example, assuming in the present instance that it had been stated by the master of this vessel, as represented by himself, that he would give £3 to the crew of the steamer to take him to Hartlepool, and the master of the steamer had said, "give me a rope," and had immediately proceeded to perform the service, I think under these circumstances a binding contract must be held to have been entered into. As regards the present case I need scarcely observe, that the proof of the alleged agreement which has been set up rests with the party who has set it up; and that this proof must be clear and satisfactory, in order to induce the Court to depart from the ordinary principles of adjudication, and introduce the agreement instead. How then do these proofs confirm the agreement in question? The direct evidence of the agreement consists in the testimony of no less than seven of the crew of the Graces, who speak uno ore to a very detailed communication, which it is not necessary for me to repeat. I should be extremely reluctant to attribute to parties so depositing an entire invention of facts which have no foundation whatever; at the same time I must confess that my conviction of what is stated to have occurred is not strengthened very much by the fact of seven people swearing in detail to a conversation of this description. I must say that when I see all the persons on board a vessel, whether they had an opportunity of hearing it or not, having memories so exceedingly accurate as to depose in the same terms to a conversation of this extent, I am inclined to think that the very accuracy of their memories should induce me to entertain some doubt upon the question.

1844.
23d May.

THE
GRACES.

1844.
~~20th May.~~
THE
GRACES.

But even giving to the master of the Graces the credit of speaking the truth, viz. that the conversation to which I have alluded actually did take place, in order to make the alleged agreement a valid contract binding upon the asserted salvors, something more must be done; it must be proved that the master of the steamer actually heard that conversation; he might have heard a part of the conversation and not the whole. Looking to the evidence in the cause, I find in the act on petition a direct contradiction that any such contract was entered into; and in the affidavits I find a general *denial of agreement*. It is to be observed, however, that these do not in express terms avouch that no such conversation took place; they contain only a general disavowal instead of a specific denial of the facts. This circumstance, I must confess, did *prima facie* create some suspicion in my mind. I do not, however, think that I should be justified to go the length of saying that when the master of the steamer swears that no such agreement took place, he meant to swear merely to the effect of the conversation, admitting the conversation actually to have taken place, and not denying it. It is unquestionably a most inconvenient mode of framing an affidavit, but it would fix upon him, in my opinion, the imputation of perjury of the worst description if I imputed to him that the whole of the alleged conversation took place, and that he intended in his affidavit to negative it in effect although not in words.

Under this state of circumstances I must in some degree be governed by the probabilities of the case; and looking to the facts which are before me, I must say that in my judgment it is highly improbable that the master of this steamer of sixty horse power having come a distance of eight miles for the purpose of

rendering assistance to a vessel represented to be in distress, would have accepted of a proposal to convey that vessel, at this season of the year (under every contingency of wind and weather), a distance of ten or eleven miles for the sum of £3. I am the more confirmed in my opinion that there was no such binding agreement between the parties when I look a little further into the *res gestae* of the case, and consider the conduct of the master of the Graces as disclosed in the proceedings before the Court. I find it stated in the course of the act on petition, as a cause of complaint against the alleged salvors, that the master of the steamer, having entered into the alleged agreement to tow the Graces for £3 to Hartlepool, instead of fulfilling his engagement towed her into the Tees, and there anchored; and this, it is said, was done against the remonstrance of the master of the Graces. If this had occurred, and there had been any such agreement, what would have been the natural conduct of the master of the Graces? Would he not have remonstrated at once, and declined the payment of the £3 as forfeited by the non-fulfilment of the contract? But what follows? Why, so far from discovering that any such remonstrance was made, I find in the pleadings before me that a new and specific arrangement was endeavoured to be made between the parties to carry the vessel to Shields, and that the arrangement was broken off in consequence of some disagreement existing between them as to the terms of the remuneration. Is this circumstance consistent with the statement that is set out by the owners of this vessel as a defence to the salvors' claim in the present instance? I conceive not, and I therefore feel myself bound to assume that no such agreement was entered into. In so concluding, I do not

1844.
23d May.

THE
GRACES.

1844.
23d May.

THE
GRACES.

attribute to any of the parties in the suit anything in the nature of perjury. The discrepancy in the respective statements may, I think, be otherwise sufficiently accounted for upon the supposition that from the noise of the sea and the distance at which the two vessels were from each other, the conversation was not heard by the persons on board the steamer. The question, then, which remains to be determined is a very simple one, and will require but very little consideration, viz. is the sum of £3, which has been tendered, a sufficient remuneration under the circumstances of the case? I am clearly of opinion that it is not. It has been argued that I am not to take into consideration that the steamer came in the first instance from Middlesborough, but must confine the service to the towage from Huntcliffe Foot to the river Tees. I am not disposed to admit of any such restriction upon the claim of the asserted salvors.

Where a steamer is plying in the Thames or elsewhere for an engagement, undoubtedly she can have no pretence for charging upon a vessel which she takes under her care the expenses incurred during the time she was so plying; but where a vessel comes out in consequence of a signal to render assistance to a ship represented to be in distress, it appears to me to be contrary to all the principles that have heretofore governed the proceedings in these cases that the time and expense in going out to the vessel so situated should be left out of the calculation. It is, I apprehend, a universal maxim, that where parties do so go out to render assistance to vessels in greater or less distress, that this circumstance is always considered as forming an ingredient in the amount of the remuneration that they are to receive.

Upon the whole view of the case I am of opinion

that the tender that has been made is clearly insufficient. The service in question was performed, the weather continuing as it was, with no risk and with great facility, it is therefore a service to be paid at no very high rate. I have no hesitation, however, in saying that I must consider it as a towage for thirty miles, and not for eleven as suggested ; and I shall award the sum of £15, and of course with the costs. I cannot, however, conclude my observations without saying one word upon the sum at which the action was entered. The action has been entered in the sum of £350. This amount, under the circumstances of the case, does appear to me somewhat vexatious ; and I take this opportunity of expressing the hope that in future questions of this description more care will be taken to apportion the demand to something like that which justice may require.

1844.
23d May.

THE
GRACES.

THE LORD AUCKLAND.

23d May.

IN this case an action was originally entered against the ship and her freight in a cause of bottomry. The bond was not opposed, and the Court, by judgment in default, pronounced for its validity, and decreed monitions against I. D. P. the secretary of the East and West India Dock Company, and Sir J. H. secretary of the Saint Katherine Dock Company, to bring in the amount of freight which had been received by or on behalf of the said dock companies upon such parts of the cargo of the said ship as had been released and delivered to the consignees thereof.

An appearance was given to the monition on behalf of the secretary to the East and West India Dock Company, who prayed to be heard on his petition ;

A monition ex-
tracted by a
bondholder
calls upon
I. D. P., the se-
cretary of the
East and West
India Dock
Company, to
bring in certain
deposits lodged
in his hands by
the consignees
of the cargo on
account of
freight.

I. D. P. having
prayed to be
heard on his
petition as to
the construction
of the statute
3 & 4 Will. 4,
c. 57, s. 47,

1844.
23d May.

THE LORD
AUCKLAND.
upon the po-
tion being sub-
sequently aban-
doned, and the
freight brought
in, I. D. P. dis-
missed, but
without costs,
the question
being prima
impressioia.

and an act was brought in, setting it forth to the following effect:

"That certain goods, forming part of the cargo laden on board the Lord Auckland, and subject to certain claims for freight, were, under and by virtue of the act of parliament 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 57, s. 47 (a),

(a) "And be it further enacted, that all goods or merchandise which shall be landed in docks and lodged in the custody of the proprietors of the said docks under the provisions of this act, not being seized as goods forfeited to his majesty, shall, when so landed, continue and be subject or liable to such and the same claim for freight in favour of the master and owner or owners of the respective ships or vessels, or of any other person or persons interested in the freight of the same, from or out of which such goods or merchandise shall be so landed, as such goods, wares or merchandise respectively were subject and liable to whilst the same were on board such ships or vessels, and before the landing thereof; and the directors and proprietors of any such docks at or in which any such goods or merchandise may be landed and lodged as aforesaid, or their servants or agents, or any of them, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized, empowered and required, upon due notice in that behalf given to them by such master or masters, owner or owners, or other persons as aforesaid, to detain and keep such goods and merchandise, not being seized as forfeited to his majesty, in the warehouses belonging to the said docks as aforesaid, until the respective freights to which the same shall be subject and liable as aforesaid shall be duly paid or satisfied, together with the rates and charges to which the same shall have been subject and liable, or until a deposit shall have been made by the owner or owners or consignee or consignees of such goods and merchandise, equal in amount to the claims or demands made by the master, owner or owners of the respective ships or vessels, or other persons as aforesaid, for or on account of freight upon such goods or merchandise; which deposit the said directors or proprietors of such docks, or their agents respectively, are hereby authorized and directed to receive and hold in trust until the claim or demand for freight upon such goods shall have been satisfied; upon proof of which, and demand made by the person or persons, their executors, administrators or assigns by whom the said deposit shall have been made, and the rates and charges due

deposited in the warehouses belonging to the East and West India Dock Company, and that at the time of such deposit notice was given by or on behalf of the owners of the said ship to the said company to detain the said goods on account of freight due in respect thereof; and that shortly after the said goods had been so deposited, they were demanded by, and were by the said dock company delivered to, the respective consignees thereof, upon deposit being made by the said consignees with the said company in pursuance of the said act of parliament, of sums equal in amount to the claims or demands made by the owners of the said ship for or on account of freight upon such goods respectively, such deposits amounting together to the sum of £318 : 11s. 11d. That the said deposits were paid to the said dock company, and received by them in pursuance of the act as aforesaid. That the claim for freight upon such goods has not been satisfied, and the consignees of the said goods refuse to consent to the said deposits being paid to the owner of the said ship or vessel. That the said deposits cannot be considered as the freight due for the transportation of the cargo laden on board the said ship, or be dealt with as in any way the property of or belonging to the owner thereof, or subject to his order or disposition, inasmuch as the dock company frequently receive deposits equal to the amount of the sums claimed by the owner of the ship for or on account of freight, though there may be in fact less or nothing due to the shipowner, and under no circumstances whatever, save with the con-

upon the said goods being first paid, the said deposit shall be returned to him or them by the said directors or proprietors or their agents on their behalf, with whom the said deposit shall have been made as aforesaid."

1844.
23d May.

THE LORD
AUCKLAND.

1844.
23d May.

**THE LORD
AUCKLAND.**

sent of the owner or consignee of the goods, which has been refused in the present instance, as before alleged, could the company be authorized, entitled or compelled to pay any portion of the said deposit to the owner of the said ship, &c. &c."

A short answer was given in to this act on petition simply alleging that the sum of £318 : 11s. 11d. was not a deposit on account of the freight as alleged, but the actual freight itself, and that as such, or even as deposit, the said sum was and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty, in whosoever hands it might be found, and that the same ought to have been brought into the registry in pursuance of the monition issued on that behalf.

Subsequent to the act on petition being given in, the dock company were authorized by the consignees, who had made the deposit in question on account of freight, to pay the said deposit into the registry of the Court. This, it was alleged in a rejoinder, had been done, and an application was now made to the Court to dismiss the secretary of the East and West India Dock Company, and to decree his expenses to be paid by the holders of the bottomry bond, by whom the monition had been extracted.

In support of the application, *Jenner* submitted—

That the East and West India Dock Company were only trustees for the parties by whom the deposit had been made, and that, without their sanction and consent, they had no election or alternative than to act as they had done in the present instance; that the words of the act of parliament were imperative upon the said dock company, and fully bore them out in the course which they had adopted; and that having acted entirely in uniformity with the act of parlia-

ment, they were entitled to be dismissed with the costs, more especially as the monition of the Court had been complied with.

Addams, in support of the application, urged that the dock company were bound to have obeyed the Court's monition in the first instance, and that having resisted the authority of the Court, and having put the bondholder to the expense of the present proceedings, it was no justification to say at the last moment that the monition of the Court had been obeyed; that notwithstanding the asserted compliance with the monition, they were bound to pay the costs.

Per Curiam.

I have not now to decide the important question which was originally raised in the act on petition. The question is confined to a simple question of costs, and I certainly think it would not be consistent with prudence on my part, when the question of law has not been raised, to enter into it.

Now where freight is improperly withheld, and it becomes necessary to extract a monition against the party so withholding it, in order to compel him to satisfy a legal demand *prima facie*, undoubtedly the Court would be disposed to condemn the party in all the costs and expenses occasioned by such detention. Where, however, a question of reasonable doubt may arise as to whether the person against whom the monition is prayed had good and justifiable ground for not obeying it, the Court will not be inclined to visit on the party the penalty of costs, and more especially in a case where, as in the present instance, the parties believed at the time that they were acting in obedience to and in accordance with the provisions of an act of parliament. Upon the present occasion I shall

1844.
23d May.
THE LORD
AUCKLAND.

1844.
23d May.

THE LORD
AUCKLAND.

give costs to neither of the parties before the Court but I wish it to be distinctly understood that, if upon any future occasion this question should be again litigated, I shall unquestionably give the costs against the party who may fail in the suit. This must be considered an ample notice with respect to the future intentions of the Court in a matter of this kind; and although a proper degree of indulgence may fairly be shown upon the present occasion to persons placed for the first time in a doubtful situation, and hesitating to commit themselves to an infringement and violation of an act of parliament, yet should the subject be again mooted, the parties so mooting it must no longer expect to receive an extension of the same indulgence.

I dismiss the party, but without costs.

3d June.

GLASCOW PACKET. NICOLL.

A salvage claim in part sustained and in part dismissed upon the ground that the salvors had misconducted themselves in the latter stages of the alleged service, by continuing to obtrude their services after they had been formally discharged by the owners. Full costs not allowed, but a sum nomine expensarum only given in consideration of the salvors' misconduct.

IN this case the Glasgow Packet having been run down whilst at anchor in Gravesend Reach, on the evening of the 30th November last, was towed close in shore upon the Essex coast, where she shortly afterwards sunk in about twenty-four feet water.

The owner in London having been apprised of the accident, entered into an agreement with a Mr. Jones to weigh the vessel, and carry her into a place of safety, for the sum of £70, including all expenses.

In pursuance of this agreement, the said Mr. J. and his crew, consisting of eight persons, accompanied by the mate and crew of the schooner and a shipwright of the name of Stagg, proceeded from London to Gravesend, and arrived alongside the wreck about

three p. m. of the 2d December, when they immediately set to work to raise the schooner, and having continued working thereat until the 10th, they finally succeeded in raising her and bringing her up to London.

Shortly after the accident, and before the sinking of the schooner, a number of Gravesend watermen put off to the schooner and tendered their assistance, and the master, being upon the point of proceeding to London with his crew to apprise the owners of the accident, agreed to employ two of the said watermen to assist the mate in keeping watch over the schooner during his absence, at the same time giving them a memorandum in the following words:—"I, David Nicoll, leave charge of the London Packet to Mr. Spiers and James Groves."

On the following morning, after the master's departure, the said S. and G., assisted by several other of the watermen, commenced getting up various articles from the schooner's deck with boat hooks, and having procured two anchors, and hired barges and lighters from Gravesend, employed themselves in endeavouring to raise the schooner until the arrival of Mr. Jones and his party from London.

Upon the arrival of Mr. Jones, they were immediately ordered by Mr. White, one of the owners, to desist; but notwithstanding repeated assurances that their assistance was not required, they continued to hover round the schooner and obtrude their services, several of them even persisting in coming up to London in the vessel after she had been raised, although not permitted to do any thing on board.

An action was entered for alleged salvage services in the sum of £450, and the case was argued by

1844.
3d June.
THE GLASGOW
PACKET.

1844.
3d June.

THE GLASGOW
PACKET.

Phillimore and Bayford, for the salvors.

Addams and Robinson, for the owners.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

A service to a certain extent is admitted in case by the tender which has been made on the of the owners of the Glasgow Packet. In consider the extent of this service, and the reward to whi is entitled, I shall direct my attention to the follow points :—First, when and under what circumsta the service in question actually commenced; condly, what degree of merit ought to be attach it; and lastly, when it ended. Upon the duration the service of course much must depend, and decision must be materially governed by the d mination of that point. Now, in proceeding to examination of these particulars, I must observ the first instance that the mode in which the case been conducted differs in some respects from the which is ordinarily adopted in cases of this descrip The original statement of the salvors on the one l does not contain the whole of the case, but keeps matters of considerable importance to the issue in cause. On the other hand, the answer of the ow of the Glasgow Packet sets up as it were a diffe and independent case, and negatives by infer only, and not directly, the averments of the sal This manner of conducting a case, it is obvious most inconvenient, and entails upon the Court exercise of a more than common degree of care in order to discover what is really in issue between parties in the suit. The principle of pleading by on petition requires that every important matter w is intended to be denied should be expressly n tived; and in conformity with this principle, w

fact is averred, and there is no contradiction of that fact, the Court will prima facie assume such an averment to be true. If then the case of the owners of the vessel proceeded against in this cause should be prejudiced by the course which has been adopted in framing their defence, the Court will lament the act, but cannot protect them from the inconvenience which they have thus brought down upon themselves. I will now look to the commencement of the asserted service, and referring to the statement of the salvors themselves, it would seem that it commenced about eleven o'clock on the 30th of November, by the mate hauling two men of the name of Spiers and Allen, who were at that time approaching the vessel in their skiff James. The master, it is represented, was not on board his own vessel at this time, but on board the Margaret. And it is alleged that the mate having hauled the two men, he directed them to save what they could, and that it was done accordingly. Now this averment in the salvors' act on petition is confirmed by them upon oath, and it is not directly negatived in any manner whatever in the answer to the act. It is true that this statement, together with other similar and most important statements of the salvors, is met by a general averment on the part of the owners of the Glasgow Packet; but I must confess, that it is somewhat difficult to ascertain to what his general averment refers. I must therefore take it for granted that it was not intended directly to deny or contradict what was done by the mate, and the statement in question being supported by affidavits, I must proceed upon the ground that this was the commencement of the service, and if so, it was clearly a just and legitimate commencement.

It appears that shortly afterwards the Hope and the

1844.
3d June.
THE GLASGOW
PACKET.

1844.
3d June.
THE GLASGOW
PACKET.

Confidence came up, and little seems to have been done or to have been attempted until the master, who was about to proceed to London with all the crew, excepting the mate and another person, gives charge of the vessel to two of the salvors, by delivering to them a written paper to the following effect:—"November 30th, 1843. I, David Nicoll, leave charge of the Glasgow Packet to Wm. Spiers and James Groves." A great deal of argument has been expended upon the nature of the charge so given, and the question arises upon what principles I am bound to construe the effect of this paper? I apprehend that it must be construed upon the same principles that prevail in the courts of common law with respect to written documents in general, viz. that their meaning and intention must be collected from the contents, and not from parol explanation. This is a cardinal rule, applicable, I conceive, to all cases, that, in considering written documents, of whatever description they may be, no parol explanation shall be received. Evidence undoubtedly may be given as to the circumstances under which the document was written, as, for instance, that it was obtained by fraud, and in that case it becomes mere waste paper; or that certain particulars were agreed to be stated in the instrument, which have been improperly left out, and these may be restored; but no evidence whatever is admissible to explain what the parties said or merely intended, excepting they be reduced into writing at the time.

If it were otherwise, and it were open to parties on parol explanation to say that they did not mean that which the words import upon the face of them, it is perfectly obvious that all written documents would be rendered nugatory. Applying these principles

then to the written paper, which was so delivered by the master in the present instance, the meaning of it in my judgment is, that the charge and care of the vessel was entrusted to the persons named therein; and that the charge so given must, in ordinary acceptation, be considered to convey an authority to do all that was necessary for the preservation of the property. If it had been intended that this charge was given for a specific purpose only, for instance, that it was merely an order to prevent plunder, and that the vessel was to remain in charge of the mate, the paper ought to have stated it. I cannot engraft upon it any limitation which is not consistent with the ordinary plan and primary meaning. Assuming this to be the right construction of the paper, I must here observe that the fact of the master so giving charge of his vessel to these individuals, goes a great way to discredit the assertion that their services were altogether rejected in the first instance, and were actually forced upon the master. Surely, if the men had so misconducted themselves, the master would not have selected them in any manner whatever. He might, if he had deemed it necessary, have left more of his own men to perform the same duty. Upon these considerations then, I am of opinion that the asserted salvors are entitled to a reasonable remuneration for their exertions from about noon of the 30th of November till some time on the 2nd of December, when other occurrences took place, to which I shall presently have occasion to advert. Without referring in detail to what was done in the interval between the master's proceeding to London to consult the owners, and the arrival of Mr. Jones for the purpose of raising the vessel, I see no reason to disapprove of the measures pursued by the salvors. According to my view

1844.
3d June.
THE GLASGOW
PACKET.

1844.
3d June.

THE GLASGOW
PACKET.

of the case, whether intentionally or not, yet in point of fact they were entrusted with the charge of the vessel, and I do not think that they in any manner abused that charge. A tender of £9 : 12s. has been made for their services by the owners of the Glasgow Packet, and this tender, I think, *prima facie*, is manifestly an inadequate compensation. Before, however, I finally adjudicate upon this point, I must look to the circumstances which subsequently occurred. It has been strongly urged by the counsel for the owners, that subsequent to the 2d of December, when Mr. Jones took charge of the vessel for the purpose of raising her, the salvors most grossly misconducted themselves in retaining possession, and forcibly continuing their services after they had been formally and positively discharged by the owners. The question arises, whether at any time and when they were so discharged and prohibited from further interference in the vessel? Now it is beyond all doubt that they were so discharged upon the 2nd of December, when the person hired to weigh the vessel had arrived, because it is distinctly admitted by the salvors themselves in their reply; and the only difference between them and the owners upon this point, is in the time of day when the discharge was given. They say indeed that no payment for their services was offered at the time they were so discharged; be it so; this circumstance would not be a sufficient justification of such misconduct upon their part. In some cases, it is true, salvors have a right to retain possession to secure for themselves the compensation which may be due. But such rule has no place here, for here there was no possession acquired by a completed salvage service; and what is a still more important fact (for it is the foundation upon

which salvors are at any time allowed to retain possession) there was no necessity for retaining the ship to secure the demands upon the owners, for the ship could not by possibility, under the circumstances, have escaped the process of this Court. Again, it has been suggested, in vindication of their resistance, that they themselves considered the further continuance of their services necessary for the final preservation of the vessel; a ground of defence which, in my judgment, is still less tenable and satisfactory. In ordinary cases, when the assistance of one set of salvors has been accepted, and they are competent to fulfil the service which they have undertaken, they cannot be dispossessed by subsequent salvors. But this principle has no application to the present case. Here the vessel was actually sunk, and it was impossible for the salvors to have raised her by their own unassisted exertions. And moreover, the owners were upon the spot to give the orders which they deemed best for the preservation of their own property.

It would, I conceive, be a most dangerous doctrine to hold, that in the river Thames any set of persons can be at liberty to supersede the authority and overrule the discretion of the owners of the ship, in the preservation of that which is most valuable to themselves—their own property. Looking then at the circumstances which occurred after the arrival of Mr. Jones upon the 2d of December, I consider that the conduct of the salvors subsequent to that period as exceedingly reprehensible; and I certainly shall not allow them any compensation for the services (if they are to be called services) improperly obtruded upon the owners of this vessel. At the same time I think that a complete mistake has been made by the

1844.
3d June.
THE GLASCOOW
PACKET.

1844.
3d June.

THE GLASGOW
PACKET.

owners with respect to the merits of the salvors in the earlier stages of the transaction, in considering the service which was rendered an ordinary tidework service. I hold it to be service of a very different degree and description. The course which I shall adopt is this:—I shall pronounce against the tender of £9 : 12s., which I deem to be insufficient for the services from the 30th of November to the 4th of December, and I shall decree to the salvors the sum of £40. With respect to the question of costs, the regular course, perhaps, would be to give the salvors their costs up to that time, and to condemn them in the subsequent costs. It would, I apprehend, be somewhat difficult, if not impossible, to work out with accuracy the precise amount of their separate costs. I shall therefore, believing that the costs of the first period ought to be greater than the latter, decree to the salvors the additional sum of £20, nomine expensarum. I cannot close this judgment without adverting to two affidavits made by a person of the name of Neale. The first of these affidavits swears, amongst other things, that the schooner could not have been raised unless a greater number of persons had been employed than were provided by Mr. Jones. The clear meaning of which is, that without the additional assistance of the salvors subsequent to the 2d of December, the salvage service could not have been effectually completed.

In a subsequent affidavit made by this same individual upon the 5th of March, he swears in these words: “That the barges, lighters, and apparatus, with deponent and the other men employed by the said Benjamin Jones, were amply sufficient for raising the said schooner.” To these affidavits it is unnecessary to state that the Court has not paid the slightest

attention in forming its judgment upon the present occasion. I am not, however, disposed to let the case rest here. It is of the last importance that swearing of this description should be prevented, and I shall take into my most serious consideration the propriety of submitting to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, whether it will not be advisable that they should direct their solicitor to prosecute this person, and all others who so attempt to pervert the course of justice.

1844.
3d June.
THE GLASGOW
PACKET.

THE EMMA.

3d June.

THIS was a cause of salvage, promoted by twenty-two boatmen of Margate, for services rendered to his vessel in assisting to get her off the Nayland rock.

The admitted value of the ship was £580; the value of the cargo and freight £3000. A tender of £60 was made by the owners of the ship and accepted by the salvors. As regards the ship, therefore, the salvage had been settled out of Court.

A tender of £250 was also made by the owners of the freight and cargo but was refused.

In the course of the argument it was contended on behalf of the owners of the cargo, that the criterion of the salvors' services, quoad the extent of the remuneration for the same, had been in a great measure fixed by themselves by the sum which they had consented to receive for the salvage in question from the owners of the ship, viz. twelve per cent. upon the value of the ship. That if this sum was in the salvors' estimation an adequate remuneration for their services to the ship which stood the most in need

Rule laid down by the Court respecting the production of protests, viz. that in all cases of salvage they ought to be brought in. In cases of salvage it is the usage of the Court to take the whole value of the ship and cargo, and assess the amount of the remuneration upon the whole, each paying its due proportion. Not competent to parties to aver that the services were of greater importance to the ship than they were to the cargo, and therefore that the ship should bear the greater burden, or vice versa. Tender overruled.

1844.
3rd June.

The
Emma.

of their assistance, the tender of £250 for the freight and cargo was proportionately a most liberal tender under the circumstances of the case and ought to be sustained, the cargo consisting of timber, which could not be deteriorated or damaged by being wetted in the water; that the Court was bound to take this circumstance into its consideration, and adjudge the quantum of remuneration according to the real extent of the service which had been rendered to the portion of the property under litigation, without reference to but separate and distinct from the benefit which had been conferred upon the owners of the ship by the salvors' exertions.—No protest was brought in, and the learned judge, in overruling the tender and awarding the sum of £340, in the course of his judgment observed to the following effect:—"In proceeding to the consideration of this case, I cannot but notice with some degree of suspicion that no protest has been produced on behalf of the owner of the vessel proceeded against. Looking to the facts and circumstances of the case itself, it is certainly a case in which, according to ordinary experience, a protest would have been made, and if made it should undoubtedly have been brought in. The non-production of such protest in the present instance becomes the more extraordinary when I look to the affidavits which have been sworn by the master and mate of the Emma; the affidavit of the latter being infinitely fuller and more comprehensive than that of the former. (Court referred to the affidavits, and proceeded to observe)—I will here avail myself of the opportunity to express my opinion with respect to the production of protests in general in this class of cases. According to my own experience in this Court, I have always understood the rule and practice of the Court to be, and I am now

applying it to cases of salvage, that the protests in all cases ought to be brought in, and for the following reasons :—In the first place, because every protest is presumed to be made *recenti facto*, and to contain a statement of the transaction when the facts are fresh in the memories of the parties deposing to it, whereas the discussion and legal investigation of those facts, and of the evidence taken upon them, cannot be had until a much later period, when even those who are most inclined to speak with the most perfect accuracy as to the nature and extent of the salvage service may find their memory fail them with respect to certain important points. This is one reason why the production of the protest is required and ought to be observed. Another, and in my view of it a most important reason why the protest should be produced, is this, viz. that it is made and sworn *alio intuitu*. In the argument which was addressed to the Court by one of the learned counsel, Dr. Addams, this circumstance has been adverted to, and ingeniously applied as a justification for keeping the protest back upon the present occasion. I cannot, I confess, accede to the argument which was so urged upon the Court. The first and primary object for which all protests are made, is to found a claim upon the underwriters for damage done. It is clear, therefore, that it is the object of the parties to state all the facts and every thing which has happened to the ship, so as to lay the foundation for the most extensive indemnification. When they come before this Court, on the other hand, for the purpose of adjusting the amount of the reward, then the state of things is reversed ; the extent of the danger is decried ; the nature and extent of the amage is depreciated. Upon these considerations, therefore, it is most desirable, and much more so in

1844.
3rd June.
THE
EMMA.

1844.
3rd June.
THE
EMMA.

cases of salvage than in cases of collision, that the protest should always be produced. I will now, before I advert in detail to the particular circumstances of this case, notice an argument which has been strongly pressed upon the Court by the learned counsel for the owners. It is admitted that the owners of the ship have made an arrangement with the salvors out of Court, and have paid the sum of £60 upon a value of £500, being twelve per cent. upon the value of the ship; and, in order to induce me not to adopt the conclusion that this arrangement furnishes a fair criterion of the salvors' claim upon the whole of the property which has been salved, it has been contended that although this sum may be a fair proportion of remuneration as regards the service rendered to the ship, yet that in this case there is a distinction between the services which have been rendered to the ship and to the cargo; that, in consequence of the nature of the cargo, the services rendered to the latter are of a weaker kind, and that a less rate of salvage is consequently due for the preservation of the cargo than for the rescue of the ship. Upon this part of the argument I must observe, in the first place, that my decision cannot be in the slightest degree ruled or governed by any thing which has been done out of Court between the salvors and the owners of the ship. I must look at the case as if no such agreement had taken place. It is obvious that this is the correct course to be adopted, from the consideration that in a case of this description many reasons may exist why, though the act is done by the common consent of the parties, it may not form a fair estimate of the real value of the service to be rewarded. For instance, as in this case, the small value of the ship, and the desire to get the matter expeditiously settled without await-

ing the decision of this Court, in order to avoid the expense of litigation, both these considerations may be sufficient to have influenced the motives of the parties between themselves in making the arrangement in question out of Court; at the same time it is clear that they can furnish no safe rule for the guidance of my judgment upon the present occasion. It was urged in the conclusion of the speech of the learned counsel who last addressed the Court, Mr. Bayford (and the argument if founded on truth, and the ancient law and practice of the Court would undoubtedly lead to important results), that the Court in determining this question was bound to look to the services which had been rendered to the ship and cargo separately and apart, and much stress was laid upon the nature and description of the cargo and its non-liability to damage from its immersion in the water.

Now in this class of cases the ordinary usage of the Court, which is well known to every person who has practised in it, is to take the whole value of the ship and cargo, and assess the amount of the remuneration upon the whole, each paying its due proportion. I am not aware, excepting in the instance of silver or bullion, that any distinction has ever been taken, or that parties have been permitted to aver, that the services were of greater importance to the ship than they were to the cargo, and therefore that the ship should bear the lesser burthen, or vice versa. Such a distinction, if acknowledged, would in many cases lead to intricate litigation and to questions of great nicety, which it would be exceedingly difficult for the Court to adjust. With respect to silver and bullion, it is true that a distinction is wisely and properly permitted, and this upon the consideration that it is more

1844.
3rd June.

THE
EMMA.

1844.
3rd June.
THE
EMMA.

easily rescued and preserved than more bulky articles of merchandize. The mode then upon which I form my estimate in this case will be to add the value of the ship, to the £3000, the admitted value of the cargo, and to fix the amount of the reward of the whole £3580, each part, of course, bearing its proportion. In this view of the case I award the sum of £320.

21st June.

Bottomry bond given at Pernambuco upon the ship, freight and cargo, resisted by the consignees of the cargo, upon the ground, 1st, That the advances were made by persons acting in the capacity of ship agents at the time the bond was given, 2dly, That the disbursements were made with the understanding that they should be covered by bills of exchange upon the owners of the ship; 3dly, That the repairs upon the vessel were improvidently undertaken, and the vessel should have been sold, and the cargo transhipped. Objection overruled, and the bond sustained.

THE LORD COCHRANE. SMITH.

THIS was a question as to the validity of a bottomry bond, purporting to bind the ship, freight and cargo. The bond was not disputed by the owners of the ship and freight, but was contested by the owners of the cargo.

The ship, it appeared, the property of Messrs. Benson, merchants, of London, sailed in the spring of 1839 from London, bound for the island of Ascension with government stores, and thence to Pernambuco in the Brazils, in search of a freight, with directions to the master from the owners to apply to the house of M'Calmont & Co., and to put the ship under their charge upon his arrival at Pernambuco. Having arrived successively at Ascension and Pernambuco, the Messrs. M'Calmont & Co. took charge of the vessel, disposed of the remainder of the outward cargo, and procured her a cargo of cotton and tobacco for the homeward voyage to England, debiting the owners in the sum of £882 : 13s. 2d., for which the master drew a bill in their favour, and which was accepted and paid upon its being presented in England. In leaving Pernambuco, the vessel met with an accident, by grounding on a sand bank beside the bar at the entrance of the harbour, and sustained

damage that she was obliged to put back for repairs. The necessary surveys having been made in the presence of Lloyd's agent, the repairs were undertaken and completed under the directions and upon the responsibility of M'Calmont & Co.; and upon the 20th January, 1840, the bond in question was given by the master to the amount of £8558 : 12s. 4d.

The vessel arrived at Liverpool in the month of March, 1840, and, having been arrested upon this bond, was abandoned by the owners, and sold under the process of the Court. The proceeds of the sale, amounting to the sum of £1675 only, were brought into the registry. The freight amounted to the sum of £1685 : 18s., and there was also an additional sum of about £430 on goods shipped by the Messrs. M'Calmont themselves, leaving a sum of £4918 to fall upon the cargo.

On the part of the consignees of the cargo, it was in substance alleged, by way of answer to the act on petition, that the house of M'Calmont & Co. were the regular agents of the owners, and in that capacity they had made all the disbursements prior to the first sailing of the vessel from Pernambuco; that this character was resumed by them upon the ship's return, and continued during and throughout the whole remainder of the ship's detention at Pernambuco; that as regular ship agents they did, or caused to be done, all the repairs to the said ship consequent upon the damages she had sustained; that the whole of such repairs were done, and the whole materials supplied, by persons whom they employed, and whom they paid and became responsible to for such work done; and that it was distinctly understood between the master and the said M'Calmont & Co. that their disbursements or liabilities for and on account of the same

1844.
21st June.

THE LORD
COCHRANE.

1844.
21st June.

THE LORD
COCHRANE.

should be covered as before by a bill to be drawn the master upon his owners; that the house of M'Calmont, as the expenses of the repairs increased, foreseeing that the amount would probably be such as would prevent the owners from accepting any bill drawn by the master, prevailed upon the master to sign the bond in question; that the repairs were providently undertaken, and that the ship ought have been abandoned and sold by the master, and the cargo transhipped and forwarded; and the conduct of Mr. S., who had acted throughout the transaction behalf of M'Calmont & Co., was characterized by an unfair desire on his part to carry out the interests of his employers at the expense of the owners of the ship and cargo, and was altogether unjustifiable under the circumstances of the case, &c.

These averments were counterpleaded and denied in a rejoinder brought in by the bondholder, and surrejoinder and also a rebutter were given in (a).

For the bondholders, *Harding* and *Elphinstone*, in opening the case, contended

That the master was without funds or credit, and although his necessities were publicly advertized at Pernambuco, no one came forward willing to make

(a) It may be stated, by way of explanation of the delay that has apparently taken place in bringing this cause to a final hearing, that the action in the cause was entered upon the 19th March 1840, and upon the 29th of February, 1841, it being considered by the consignees of the cargo and their advisers that more effectual evidence could be obtained by carrying the suit into the Court of Chancery, an injunction was issued to restrain the Court of Admiralty from further proceeding in the cause. The principal cause was in consequence suspended in this Court, and it was not until the commencement of the year 1844 that by mutual agreement both parties consented to abandon the proceedings in the Court of Chancery, and resume the suit in this Court.—Ed. note

the advances that were required ; that Mr. Saunders, the managing agent of M'Calmonth & Co., the holders of the bond, was voluntarily selected by the master, in the exercise of his discretion, as the person in whose hands to place his ship, and that from the very commencement of the transaction there was a mutual agreement between Mr. S. and the master that a bottomry bond should be given ; that there was no departure from this understanding at any period during which Mr. S. was engaged in the affairs of the vessel, and that the repairs were undertaken not only under the inspection of the master, but with the concurrence of Lloyd's agent at Pernambuco ; that the shippers of the cargo, who were resident upon the spot, were all of them cognizant of the transaction, and might have interfered if they had thought fit so to do, as was also the son of Mr. Benson, the owner, who expressly sanctioned the proceedings ; that the cargo, a valuable cargo of £23,000 in value, had, through the advances made by the house of M'Calmonth, been safely brought to its port of destination, and that the delay occasioned by the present refusal on the part of the consignees of that cargo to pay their proportion of the bond, which was undisputed by the owners of the ship and freight, and both of which had been made available in part, was vexatious and unjust ; that having carried the matter from this Court to the Court of Chancery, they now come back after the delay of two years, and that the principal objections upon which they relied, it would appear from the pleadings in the cause, rather referred to matters of account, which could not affect the validity of the bond, but which belong to the investigation of the registrar and merchants.

1844.
21st June.
THE LORD
COCHRANE.

1844.
21st June.

THE LORD
COCHRANE.

For the consignees of the cargo, *Addams and Bayford* submitted—

That the abandonment of their own interests by the owners of the ship and freight did not affect the right of the consignees of the cargo to dispute the validity of the bond, and that they were perfectly justified in the course which they had pursued under the circumstances of the case; that the reason for resorting to the Court of Chancery was, that the parties opposing the bond considered that by so doing they were more likely to obtain the necessary evidence, and in that view they had not been mistaken; that no unfavourable judgment had been pronounced against them in that Court; on the contrary, that the Lord Chancellor had expressed a strong opinion upon the case, as full of suspicion, and requiring a strict investigation, and that they had been driven to return to the Court of Admiralty by the fact that since giving bail in this Court circumstances had occurred which rendered it inconvenient for them to furnish the necessary security demanded by the Court of Chancery. That prior to the decision in the case of the *Gratitudine*, it was a vexata questio in this Court whether a master, under any state of circumstances, could legally hypothecate the cargo committed to his care. That the judgment of Lord Stowell in that case clearly established that, in order to justify him in so doing, the circumstances of the case must be special, the exigencies of the master most extreme and stringent, and that these did not exist in the present instance. That the instructions from Mr. Benson, the owner, to the master of the vessel, and his conversation with Mr. Nowall prior to his departure from England, clearly showed that Mr. Benson himself considered that, upon the arrival of the ship at

Pernambuco, she would be put in the hands of M'Calmonth & Co.; and that for the purposes of this suit, the vessel must be considered, if not in terms at least in effect, to have been regularly consigned to that house. That the whole res gestæ of the case, prior to the accident which compelled the vessel to return to Pernambuco for repairs, established upon M'Calmonth & Co. the character of agents for the owner, and that this character was resumed upon the return of the vessel, and continued throughout the whole transaction. That the advances having been made by them for the service of the ship in that capacity, they were not entitled, under the authority of the decision in the *Hero*, to turn round upon their employers at the last moment, and cover such advances under the security of a bond of hypothecation, as they had done; at all events, not without giving fair notice to the master that they would give no further credit to the owner, and thus enabling him to go elsewhere for the money that might be required. That no such notice was given upon the present occasion, and there was no evidence whatever before the Court to show that, upon a proper application from the master, money could not have been obtained elsewhere from other houses at Pernambuco. That the contrary was to be presumed, from the very high character and mercantile credit enjoyed by Mr. Benson in this country. That under the circumstances of the case, the master was bound to have communicated with the shippers of the cargo in the first instance, and should also have corresponded with the owner and consignees in England; neither of which measures had been adopted, and the whole transaction appeared to have been carried on in secrecy between the master and Mr. Saunders, the

1844.
21st June.
THE LORD
COCHRANE.

1844.
21st June.

THE LORD
COCHRANE.

managing agent of M'Calmon & Co., and whose conduct was characterized throughout by great improvidence and want of proper discretion and circumspection. Lastly, that the master might and should have transhipped his cargo and sold his vessel, which would have been infinitely more advantageous in regard to the interests of all parties concerned, than incurring the ruinous expenses which have been encountered. That the charges for these repairs and other claims in the accounts were upon the face of them exorbitant in the extreme, and that although it was unquestionable that bonds of bottomry, when fair and upright in their character, were to be upheld with a strong hand by the Court of Admiralty, the Court was bound to discountenance them when tainted with suspicion in all their circumstances, as this bond was, especially as regards the hypothecation of the cargo, in the present instance.

The Court, without calling upon the counsel for the bondholders in reply, gave judgment to the following effect :—

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

I have carefully read over the papers in this case before I came into Court, and the original impression upon my mind with respect to the validity of the bond in question has not, I confess, been removed by the arguments which have been addressed to the Court upon the present occasion.

The bond, which is upon the ship, freight and cargo, has not been disputed by the owners of the ship and freight. As far as their interests are concerned, a judgment by default has already been pronounced by the Court. The payment of the bond has, however, been contested on behalf of the owners

of the cargo, and they are undoubtedly entitled, notwithstanding the acquiescence of the owners of the ship and freight, to avail themselves of any defence competent to them by law. The question, then, which I have to determine, is how far the objections of the owners of the cargo are legally borne out under the circumstances of the case. Now the first ground upon which the opposition to this bond has been rested is the denial of that stringent necessity which it is said will alone justify the master of a vessel in including, in a bond of bottomry, the hypothecation of the cargo entrusted to his care. In support of this part of the argument, the Court has been referred to the case of the *Gratitudine*, and it has been contended, upon the authority of the decision in that case, that in order to justify the hypothecation of the cargo, the circumstances of the case must be special, the nature of the necessity extreme and urgent; and where these do not exist, the bondholder has no right to extend his security for the repayment of his advances by including the cargo in his bond of bottomry. Now it is apparent to my mind, that in all cases of this kind, the measure of the necessity must be governed by the degree of damage which has been done, and the extent of the advances which may be required for the repairs. The greater the damage, the larger the expense, the greater will be the necessity for including the cargo in the bond of hypothecation, and for this plain and obvious reason, that the ship and freight may be inadequate to discharge the bond, or it may happen, as has frequently occurred in these Courts, that the vessel, though amply sufficient in value for the amount of the bond at the time the bond is given, from subsequent misfortunes may be wholly insufficient to discharge the payment upon

1844.
21st June.
THE LORD
COCHRANE.

1844.
21st June.
THE LORD
COCHRANE.

her arrival at her port of destination. Looking to these contingencies, it is not unreasonable that the bondholder should require the cargo to be called in in aid of his security, and on legal principle I conceive he has a perfect right so to do. I apprehend the doctrine of law to be, that persons who advance money upon bottomry, whatever may be the amount which they undertake to advance, however they may look in the first instance to the value of the ship and freight, are fully entitled, if they think fit, to demand the additional security of the cargo, and to bind all three under the obligation of the bond for the repayment of the money advanced.

I will now address myself to another ground of objection which has been strongly pressed in the argument on behalf of the parties opposing the bond, namely, that Mr. Saunders, at the time he made the advances, was acting in the capacity of agent to Mr. Benson, the owner of the ship. Is this borne out by the facts of the case? It appears, indeed, that Mr. Benson, upon the departure of the vessel from this country on a voyage to Ascension and thence to Pernambuco, gave certain directions to the master for the guidance of his conduct upon her arrival at Pernambuco, and amongst those directions the master was instructed to address himself to the house of M'Calmont & Co. at that place. It does not appear, however, that Mr. Benson himself caused any intimation to be made to that house that he adopted them as his agents, or that he would honor their bills; nor does the master go out with any letters of credit upon the house at Pernambuco or any one else; but it is said that for the purpose of this suit the vessel must be considered to have been virtually consigned to the house of M'Calmon & Co., inasmuch that, prior to

the departure of the vessel from England, a conversation took place upon the subject between Mr. Benson the owner, and Mr. Nowall one of the partners in a firm in London in connection with the house at Pernambuco, and that the result of that conversation left upon Mr. Benson's mind the impression that the vessel, upon her arrival at Pernambuco, would probably be put into the hands of M'Calmon & Co. It is by no means clear from the evidence in the cause how far this impression was entertained by Mr. Nowall, or communicated by him to the firm in London to which he belonged ; it is, however, unnecessary for the purpose of this discussion to pursue the inquiry upon the point. Assuming that the vessel was consigned to the house of M'Calmon & Co. as suggested, and that they took upon themselves the character of the ship's agents by performing all that was incumbent upon them in that capacity, what follows ? They faithfully discharge their obligation to the ship by procuring her a full cargo, themselves being amongst the largest shippers, and having defrayed the expenses, they draw upon Mr. Benson for the amount, and the transaction is concluded by the sailing of the vessel on her homeward voyage to England. It has, however, been urged that the vessel, soon after leaving port, met with an accident which compelled her to return to Pernambuco for repairs ; and it has been much discussed in the argument that upon the return of the ship to Pernambuco the agency was resumed by the firm of M'Calmon & Co. In my view of it, even assuming that the agency was resumed, as is contended on behalf of the owners of the cargo, this fact would not affect the legal bearing of the question which I have to determine under the circumstances of the case. Upon the return of the

1844.
21st June.
THE LORD
COCHRANE.

1844.
21st June.

THE LORD
COCHRANE.

ship frequent surveys are held upon her, and these surveys, it appears, take place under the immediate inspection of the agent for Lloyd's at Pernambuco. In thus calling in the assistance of Lloyd's agent, I cannot but think that the master and the house at Pernambuco acted with great prudence and propriety, inasmuch that it is generally considered in this Court, and I apprehend most properly, that one of the greatest safeguards for the integrity of transactions of this nature, is a recurrence to Lloyd's agent, who must be presumed to be selected for his situation from his general respectability and experience. From the affidavit of Mr. Saunders, it further appears that it was not until the end of August that the real extent of the repairs that were necessary, and the amount of the expenses to be incurred in those repairs, were correctly ascertained; and at the request of the master, Mr. Saunders, on behalf of the firm of M'Calmont & Co., thereupon gives the necessary directions for enabling the ship to accomplish her voyage to England. The question then arises, did Mr. Saunders make the firm of M'Calmont & Co. responsible for one sixpence of those repairs upon the personal security of the owners? I conceive not, and I am confirmed in this opinion when I look to the affidavit of Mr. Saunders, which is before the Court. In that affidavit Mr. Saunders deposes to this effect: "That previous to the commencement of any of the repairs, and before he had made or undertaken to make the firm of M'Calmont & Co. in any manner liable or responsible to any person whatever for the expenses of any of the repairs, it was distinctly understood and agreed by and between the master of the ship and himself, on behalf of the firm of M'Calmont & Co., that the master should, previously to the sailing of the vessel,

ecute a bottomry bond at the usual rate of marine interest." The statement which is thus made on oath by Mr. Saunders, it is to be observed, is not met by any counter evidence on the other side, is not contradicted by any one fact or circumstance in the cause. I must consequently hold that is entitled to the credence of the Court, and if so, am at a loss to understand upon what grounds it be contended in the face of this statement that e and sufficient notice was not given to the master it any advances which might be made in the prosecution of the repairs were to be made, not upon the personal responsibility of the owners, but upon the security of the ship. It has been argued that, notwithstanding this notice, the firm of M'Calmont & Co., having once taken upon themselves the character of agents, could not divest themselves of that character and assume the privilege of strangers, by demanding the security of a bottomry bond for the advances they were called upon to make in the service of the ship. Looking to the reported decisions of this Court, I cannot accede to the propriety of the position. The doctrine of law laid down by Lord Stowell I apprehend to be this,—that it is no part of the duty of an agent to advance money without a reasonable expectation of being reimbursed; and if he thinks it right to hold hard and secure his repayment upon a bottomry bond, he is at liberty so to do, provided he gives notice that he will not make the advances as agent, and affords the master the opportunity of trying to get money elsewhere. This is the principle laid down by Lord Stowell in the case of the *Hero*, to which a reference has been made in the argument; and the principle was carried out by the same very learned judge in the case of the *Augusta*, where

1844.
21st June.

THE LORD COCHRANE.

1844.
21st June.
THE LORD
COCHRANE.

some of the advances having been made by the consignee of a ship upon the personal security of the owner, and other advances upon the sole security of the ship and freight, Lord Stowell pronounced against the validity of the former, and decided in favor of the latter, as coming fairly within the scope of a bottomry transaction.

In the course of the argument great stress was laid upon the high character and mercantile credit of Mr. Benson in this country, and the case was in some degree argued upon the assumption that his character must have been so fully known, and his credit so far available in Pernambuco, that the necessary funds might have been procured upon his personal security alone, without having recourse to a bottomry bond at all.

Without intending the slightest disparagement to the character of this gentleman, I must observe, that the question which I am called upon to decide is not the responsibility of Mr. Benson, or his ability to meet the payment of any bills that might have been drawn upon him, but how far under the circumstances of the case it is probable that the house of M'Calmon, or of any other person at Pernambuco, would have been content to advance the money upon the sole chance of repayment from Mr. Benson, who had taken care that no person on his account should render him responsible for a single farthing, and who does not appear to have had any correspondence with, much less to have authorized, the house of Penambuco to draw upon him for one sixpence. As far as I am competent to form any opinion upon the subject, I must say that all the circumstances of the case strongly tend to establish upon my mind the conviction that the advances in question were made upon a bottomry

nsideration. Notifications were posted up in the place of greatest publicity, by means of which the uppers of the cargo, according to the evidence in the case, must have been cognizant of the fact. There were also subsequent advertisements inserted in the newspapers, and it is not pretended that any person came forward in answer thereto, who was willing or anxious to make the requisite advances. I now come to another point in the case which has been much commented upon, viz., the conduct of the master with reference to the shippers of the cargo. It has been said, that it was the duty of the master, before he gave bottomry bond upon the cargo in this case, to have communicated with the shippers in the first instance, and to have taken their directions ; this observation, is obvious, must be subject to great limitation under the circumstances of the case. The shippers, it is to be noticed, were resident on the spot : and it is perfectly true, that if they had been kept in ignorance of the intended bottomry transaction, it would have been strong argument against the bona fides of the master, that he had not put himself into communication with them. It is obvious however in the present instance, from the facts spoken to in the affidavits, that these shippers must have been cognizant of the transaction in question ; and if they had deemed it expedient for their interests to interfere for the protection of the cargo, they had the opportunity, and were at perfect liberty so to do. It appears, however, that only one or two of these individuals, and those possessing the slightest degree of interest, in any manner interfered or took any share in the matter. In my opinion this indifference was a virtual acquiescence in the master's proceedings, and is much the same thing as if a communication had taken place between the

VOL. II.

A A

1844.
21st June.
THE LORD COCHRANE.

1844.
21st June.
THE LORD
COCHRANE.

master and themselves, and their answer had been—~~we~~
will have nothing to do with the matter, you must
act according to your own discretion.

Pursuing the investigation a little further, let us now see what were the alternatives offered to the master under the circumstances in which he was placed. It has been said, that he might have transhipped the cargo immediately upon his return to Pernambuco; perhaps he might; but has any authority been cited to show that he was bound to do so? I am not aware that any such obligation exists, according to any known rule of the maritime law, and looking to the particular circumstances of the case under consideration, it would, I conceive, have been a dangerous expedient for him to have resorted to this step in the first instance, before he had ascertained the amount of the expense that would be necessary for the repair, and had clearly seen his way to the equitable protection of all persons concerned in the ship, freight and cargo severally, whose interests were equally entrusted to his care. Again, it has been stated, that he might have corresponded with the owner and the consignee of the cargo in England. What would have been the consequence of such mode of proceeding? The consequence would have been, that the ship and cargo would have been locked up for a period of three months, and at the expiration of that time, he would probably have been left to the exercise of his own discretion. One other alternative has been suggested, and that is, that he might have sold the ship.

As a general position of law, it is not to be denied that in a case of necessity the master is invested with an authority to sell his vessel, but this authority, I apprehend, is strictly limited, and could alone be justified by the necessities of the case.

tified in case of very extreme emergency, the mere extent of which it would be almost impossible to define beforehand.

Granting that he might, I have yet to learn that such a measure would have been proper or expedient under the circumstances. A sale of a vessel at Pernambuco, abandoned by the master as unseaworthy—a sale not sanctioned by Lloyd's agent—what sort of a title would the purchaser have received, and what sort of a price would the owner have obtained? It is not to be denied, that under certain circumstances the master of a vessel, in the exercise of the discretionary authority with which he is invested, may sell and dispose of the ship, but this power I conceive to be strictly limited by law, and is only to be exercised under emergencies of great stringency; emergencies which it is almost impossible to perceive beforehand, and which I shall not attempt to define in the present instance, because I am perfectly aware and satisfied in my own mind, that there is nothing in this case which would have justified the master in having recourse to such a proceeding.

It only remains that I should very briefly advert to one or two further observations which have been thrown out by the learned counsel who have argued the case on behalf of the owners of the cargo. It has been said that the charges for the repairs in question are upon the face of them exorbitant; and that a bill of exchange might have been drawn by the master upon Mr. Benson, the owner of the ship, and that such bill would have been assuredly discharged upon the presentation in England. Now supposing that such bill of exchange had been drawn and taken by Mr. Saunders, in addition to the bond of bottomry, would that in any measure have affected the validity

1844.
21st June.

THE LORD
COCHRANE.

1844.
21st June.
THE LORD
COCHRANE.

of the bond in question ? Clearly not. It is a matter of daily notoriety in this class of cases, that persons advancing the money are in the habit of receiving bills of exchange, by way of collateral security for the repayment of the bond of bottomry. If the bills of exchange are paid, the bond of course is not sued for. The general validity of the bond, however, is in no degree impaired by the additional security by which it is accompanied, and, if necessary, it may be enforced by proceedings in this Court, in the same manner as if no such collateral security had been given.

With respect to the charges made for the repairs and the other items in the bond, if these should be excessive or contrary to the usage and custom of merchants, and against sound principles of justice and equity, the remedy is to refer them generally to the registrar and merchants, and have them cut down according to their decision, subject to the opinion of the Court. As far as I am enabled to form an opinion upon them, I must say that they do not strike me as being excessive ; if they be, it is a matter for the consideration of the registrar and merchants, and not for the determination of the Court, in the present instance. The same observation applies to the premium that has been demanded upon this bond. The Court has never been in the habit of pronouncing against the validity of a bond on account of excess of premium, and I well remember a case in which I myself was counsel, where Lord Stowell expressly laid down that it was a matter of reference to the registrar in all cases in which the premium was disputed, because the amount of such premium must at all times depend upon a variety of circumstances, which the Court could not take upon itself satisfactorily to decide.

As some imputation against the bona fides of Mr.

Saunders was thrown out in the earlier stages of the cause, although no longer contended for in the argument, I consider myself bound in justice to that gentleman to conclude my observations by expressing my conviction that there was nothing whatever fraudulent in any part of this transaction. On the contrary, I think the conduct of Mr. Saunders, who acted in the business for M'Calmont & Co., is marked throughout by a strong desire on his part to do his duty fairly between all the parties. I think the correspondence shows every thing it could be desired that it should be. I have only to express my regret, that circumstances have taken place which have for so long a period delayed the right of the parties who are entitled to recover the amount of the bond.

I pronounce for the bond, with the costs.

1844.
21st June.

THE LORD
COCHRANE.

VOLCANO. M'ILLWAIN.

5th July.

THIS was a proceeding in a cause of damage, promoted by the owners of the brig Helen against the commander of her Majesty's steam ship the Volcano.

The Admiralty Proctor having appeared by authority of the Lords of the Admiralty on behalf of the commander of the steamer, an act on petition was given in, in substance stating that the Helen, of 116 tons, whilst in the prosecution of a voyage from Canea to Glasgow, upon the 27th February, 1839, was driven by stress of weather and compelled to anchor

Commander of a Queen's ship condemned in a cause of damage, the collision having been occasioned by his anchoring too near the damaged vessel; and having anchored with only one anchor down, the weather being squally and tempestuous at the time.

Mahomet's Bay, on the coast of Spain. That about noon on the following day the Volcano, with a crew and passengers from Malta, was likewise compelled to seek shelter in the same bay, and having

1844.
5th July.

THE
VOLCANO.

taken up a berth about two cables' length to windward of the Helen, she came to anchor with her small bower anchor alone and a chain cable an inch and a quarter thick. That a hurricane having arisen during the night, the Volcano broke her anchor and drifted athwart the hawse of the Helen, whereby the two vessels were brought into collision, and the Helen was so severely damaged that she eventually sank. That the collision was solely and entirely occasioned by the mismanagement and misconduct of the Volcano, &c.

The case was argued on behalf of the commander of the Volcano, by

The Queen's Advocate and Phillimore, A. A.

Addams and Blake, contrà.

Per Curiam.—DR. LUSHINGTON.

It has been urged, gentlemen, in the argument at the bar, that this collision has already been inquired into by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and also by the admiral upon the station where the occurrence took place, and that the subsequent promotion of Lieutenant M'Illwaine clearly shows that in the opinion of competent judges no unseamanlike conduct is to be attributed to the commander of the Volcano. Gentlemen, it is my duty to inform you, that in this investigation we must be guided entirely by the facts disclosed in the evidence; and we must in no degree be influenced by any previous inquiry that may have been made, or the opinions which may have been formed by any individuals whatever. The cause comes before this Court with the approbation of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for a just and impartial decision, and it is obviously im-

sible that we can be in any manner guided by the consideration of circumstances that may have occurred elsewhere; still more is it impossible for us to set aside the promotion of Lieutenant M'Ilwaine to have influence upon our decision; that is a circumstance entirely out of this case, and dependent upon considerations with which we have nothing whatever to do. I will now, gentlemen, very shortly advert to one or two points in the case which relate to the conduct of the Helen, the vessel proceeding in the cause. It appears that when the steam ship Volcano entered the bay, the Helen had already taken up her position and was anchored by her best bower anchor; it also appears that, conceiving her to be in a situation of safety, the greater part of the crew were below deck at the time, and one man alone is said to have been upon deck. This circumstance was much commended upon in the argument, but in my view of it I have no material bearing upon the question we are called upon to determine, because, assuming the statement to be so, it is abundantly clear that the collision which afterwards took place does not appear to have resulted from any thing which was done or left undone by any part of the Helen. Another charge has also been made against the master and crew of the Helen with respect to their conduct in not going back to the vessel after the collision had occurred. In one of the affidavits brought in on behalf of Captain M'Ilwaine, this refusal on their part to return to the ship has been designated in strong terms as dastardly and cowardly conduct. Looking to the evidence which is before me, I confess that I am unable to accede to any such conclusion. It is stated by Captain M'Ilwaine himself, that at the period when the collision took place the wind blew a perfect hurricane.

1844.
5th July.
THE
Volcano.

1844.
5th July.
THE
VOLCANO.

ricane, and that the sea was one mass of foam.]
be so, I cannot but think that it is perfectly n
and prudent on the part of the crew of the :
that they should not, for the mere purpose, as
derstand it, of saving their clothes, have attemp
regain their own vessel, which had suffered so se
under the circumstances stated. It is moreover
observed, that even assuming they were dispos
make the attempt, there is no evidence to sh
they possessed at their command any conveyan
so doing. Dismissing therefore from further
deration the objections which have been mad
respect to the conduct of the Helen, let us now
sider the conduct of the persons on board the Vo
and the questions, gentlemen, which I shall ultir
refer to you with respect to this vessel, will]
following: 1st, whether, considering the state
weather and the position which the Helen ha
viously taken up, the Volcano was brought to :
in a proper place; and, 2ndly, whether at a subse
period after the steam ship was so anchored,
precautions and fitting measures were adopted i
security of all parties. If you should be of o
either that the anchorage was improperly tak
by the Volcano in the first instance, or that
quently thereto another and a larger anchor ou
have been dropped, in either of these cases it w
low that the blame must be imputed to the
and crew of the Volcano, and the damages m
pronounced for. If on the other hand you sh
of opinion that all ordinary and seamanlike p
tion was observed, and that the accident arose n
from the violence of the squall which came
blow, then the collision will be clearly the res

inevitable accident, and the party proceeded against will be entitled to his dismissal.

Now, in proceeding to investigate these points in the case, I shall, gentlemen, content myself with bringing under your notice Captain M'Illwaine's own statement, which he swears to be true; and I will not refer you to any of the opposing evidence, excepting those statements in the act on petition which are not in any way contradicted on the part of the Volcano. This mode of conducting the inquiry will, I apprehend, be in every respect least capable of exception on the part of Captain M'Illwaine himself, and whatever may be your opinion upon the evidence so brought to your notice, it will, I conceive, be impossible for Captain M'Illwaine to say that the decision is not at all events founded upon an impartial consideration of the case.

The first document to which I must call your attention is a letter written by Captain M'Illwaine, and dated from Cartagena the very day after the collision took place, in which letter Lieutenant M'Illwaine, after stating that the Volcano, in consequence of stormy and tempestuous weather, was compelled to seek for shelter in Mahomet's Bay, describes the occurrence in the following words—he says, “observing several small vessels lying in the bay of Mahomet, about ten miles to the N.N.E. of the Cape, I ran in and anchored in sixteen fathoms, and veered to sixty, the wind being off shore, we rode perfectly easy until midnight.” In a subsequent statement, bearing date 12th June, 1838, he again says, “that he anchored the Volcano about two cables' length on the starboard bow of a brig, several other vessels being at anchor in the bay.” The question here arises, was this a right or a wrong position for the Volcano to take up under the circumstances? It is expressly alleged in the act on petition

1844.
5th July.

THE
VOLCANO.

1844.
5th July.

THE
VOLCANO.

on behalf of the Helen, that although there were a few other small vessels at anchor in the bay, yet they were all of them anchored at a considerable distance from the brig, and that none were anchored so as to prevent the Volcano from anchoring elsewhere than to windward of the Helen.

As this averment in the act on petition is not denied in the answer on behalf of Lieutenant M'Illwaine, it must be taken as an admitted fact in the case that there was a sufficient anchorage room in the bay for the Volcano to have selected a different anchorage, without putting other vessels in a state of jeopardy. The first question then for your decision, gentlemen, will be, whether or no the position taken up by the Volcano was a right position? There is you will observe some little difference between the statement of Captain M'Illwaine and that of the Helen in the following particular, viz., that the owners of the Helen allege that the Volcano anchored directly to windward of the Helen, whilst the owners of the Volcano, without directly denying that she did so anchor to windward, state that she anchored on the starboard bow; from this it has been inferentially contended by the counsel on behalf of the Volcano, that she could not have anchored directly to windward of the Helen. This inference is, I apprehend, substantially a true one. At the same time I would call to your attention, that the denial on the part of the Volcano is unaccompanied by any averment as to how many points she was so anchored on the starboard bow of the Helen. It must then, gentlemen, be matter for your consideration what effect is to be attributed to this contradiction on the part of the Helen. Looking to the manner in which the collision took place, and also to the statement as to the alleged

alteration in the wind, it will be for you to determine from the circumstances of the case, how many points on the starboard bow of the Helen it is probable that the Volcano was anchored; it will also be for you further to determine whether, considering the state of the wind and weather, she was not bound to have selected another and a different anchorage when it was practicable for her to have done so. The weather, you will remember, had been tempestuous for several days preceding, and it is admitted by Captain M'Illwaine, that the wind was off the land and blew strong in squalls, a circumstance which, in my view of it, must have induced the expectation that the squalls might by possibility increase, and should at the same time have also suggested the propriety of taking every precaution to prevent their evil consequences and effects. I now come, gentlemen, to the second point in the case for your consideration, viz., whether in the mode of anchoring the steam vessel, and at a subsequent period thereto, proper precaution was adopted for the common safety of the two vessels. The Volcano, it is admitted, was a vessel of 720 tons burthen, and according to the statement of Captain M'Illwaine himself, it is represented that she was anchored by her small bower anchor, weighing only about 16 cwt. Now laying out of consideration the affidavit of Mr. Courtney as to what ought to be the weight of an anchor of a vessel of a certain tonnage, and equally laying out of consideration any opinion which may have been entertained by the Lords of the Admiralty or other persons upon the matter in question, you will decide for yourselves, gentlemen, whether under the circumstances in which the vessel was placed, she ought to have anchored and remained at anchor with only an anchor of the weight mentioned—in other

1844.
5th July.
THE
VOLCANO.

1844.
5th July.

THE
VOLCANO.

words, whether it would not have been a more seamanlike and proper precaution to have dropped a second and a larger anchor. It appears, indeed, that at midnight, in consequence of the state of the weather, a consultation was actually held between the commander and the other officers of the Volcano upon this very subject, viz., the expediency of dropping a second anchor; but they were of opinion that there was no immediate necessity for their so doing; at the same time they state that, in order to be prepared for any unforeseen contingency, a second anchor was prepared and got ready to be dropped, thereby in effect acknowledging the possibility of such contingency occurring. It was argued strongly by her Majesty's Advocate upon this point in the case, that in so directing a second anchor to be got ready, the commander of the Volcano did all that was required of him at the moment, and that under the circumstances the laying out a second anchor would have been unnecessary, and if unnecessary, unseamanlike, the small bower anchor, notwithstanding the prevalence of the wind, having held them in safety during the entire day. How far there was an immediate necessity or otherwise for dropping the second anchor is not the real question in this case; the question is, whether it would not have been a prudent and proper precaution to have done so. I do not mean that you are to strain the matter, but considering the facts of the case with reference to the position of the Helen, the state of the wind, and all the circumstances, you will have to determine how far it was a measure which men acquainted with nautical affairs ought in ordinary prudence to have adopted. Upon the whole then, gentlemen, I will thank you to assist me with your opinion, whether or no there was a want of due pre-

ition, and a departure from proper seamanlike conduct in the measures pursued and adopted by the commander of the Volcano upon the present occasion.

1844.
5th July.
THE
VOLCANO.

The *Trinity Masters* were of opinion that the Volcano was to blame in the position she originally took, and also in not letting out more cable, and in not going a second anchor.

Damage pronounced for.

In the course of the proceedings an affidavit was brought in in exception to the testimony of one of the witnesses on behalf of the Helen, and the admission of this affidavit was opposed, as being a novel attempt altogether unprecedented in proceedings by act petition, &c. The Court suspended the admission of the affidavit, stating, that if it should ultimately turn out that the merits of the case would be essentially affected by the evidence of the individual excepted to, it would be then time to determine the principle how far such affidavits in cases by act on petition were admissible or not.



THE PLYM.

HIS was originally a cause of possession civil and maritime, promoted and brought on the 7th June, 12, by John Frederick Barnikel, as sole owner and proprietor of the above named vessel, against the said vessel, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and also against William Wood the mortgagee thereof, interring for his interest therein. The party proceeding conducted his own cause up to the 14th of February, 13, when, upon his prayer to that effect, he was admitted to sue in forma pauperis, and counsel and

7th August.
Application to the Court to supersede an attachment which had been directed to issue for nonpayment of costs in a cause of possession, upon the ground that during a part of the proceedings in the original cause, the party applying had sued in forma

1844.
7th August.

THE
PLTM.

pauperis; 2ndly,
that the writ of
attachment was
wrongly directed,
being ad-
dressed to the
marshal of the
Queen's Bench
Prison.

Application re-
jected.

Sembly, when
an attachment
is issued by the
Court for non-
payment of
costs, the Court
has no power to
supersede that
attachment,
saving upon
grounds only re-
lating to the
manner in which
the writ is exe-
cuted.

proctor were assigned to him. On the 24th of March the judge dismissed the suit and condemned Mr. Barnikel in the costs. On the 5th of May, the bill of costs of Mr. Wood's proctor was taxed at £43; and a monition to pay the same was served on Mr. Barnikel, and returned into court on the 7th of June. On the 27th of June, 1843, an attachment issued in default of payment of the above bill of costs, and Mr. Barnikel was delivered into the custody of the keeper of the Queen's Prison.

Mr. *Barnikel* in person moved to discharge this writ, contending 1st, that he ought not to have been condemned in the costs of the suit; 2nd, that the address in the warrant of committal was wrong.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 22.

Dr. *Addams*, contra.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington*.

This is an application to supersede an attachment, which issued some time since against the applicant for nonpayment of certain costs in which he has been condemned. It is necessary, in the first instance, to consider what authority this Court has to act in this matter, and also to be careful not to take into consideration any matters which may not properly be entered into. The 21st section of the 3 & 4 Vict. c. 65, provides, "That it shall be lawful for the judge of the High Court of Admiralty to order the discharge of any person who shall be in custody for contempt of the said court for any cause other than for nonpayment of money." It follows from this exception, that, in cases falling directly within it, I have no discretion whatever, but must govern myself by the strict rules of law prevailing antecedently to the

passing of this act. Upon what grounds then, prior to the passing of this act, had the judge of the High Court of Admiralty jurisdiction to supersede an attachment issued in aid of a decree ? I apprehend solely and only on grounds relating to the manner in which the writ is executed. This disposes of a large part of the objection which, in the first instance, has been addressed to the court by Mr. Barnikel. I am not at liberty to enter into the previous history of this cause, except for the purpose of taking a clear view of the circumstances which led to the attachment. The suit was commenced by Mr. Barnikel on the 7th of June, 1842 ; it was a cause of possession, which from that time went on in a very irregular manner ; it was long delayed, indeed nothing was done from that time until the month of February, 1843. On the 14th of February Mr. Barnikel prayed to be and was admitted to sue in formâ pauperis, and having taken the usual and necessary oath, counsel and a proctor were assigned him. In March, 1843, the cause was heard, and the Court made the following decree : " It dismissed the said William Wood (Stokes's party) from all further observance of justice in this cause ; dismissed the bail given on behalf of the said William Wood from the liabilities by them entered into, and from all further observance of justice in this cause, and condemned the said John Frederick Barnikel in the costs." Now I am of opinion that I have no power or authority whatever to review that judgment, pronounced so far back as March, 1843 ; and that, if that judgment be erroneous, the only remedy is by appeal to the Judicial Committee. But, in fact, no attempt is now made to impeach the decree ; it is not alleged that Mr. Barnikel ought not to have been condemned in those costs, on the ground of his being a pauper at the time

1844.
7th August.
THE
PLYM.

1844.
7th August.

THE
PLYM.

that decree was pronounced. I have no doubt, if that objection had been urged, that I could not have refused to condemn him in the costs incurred antecedently and up to the time when he was admitted to sue as a pauper. How otherwise could this court administer justice to the party improperly sued? A bill of costs was porrected by the proctor for Mr. Wood, and taxed by the registrar at £43; and not a word has been said in objection to that bill. A motion was taken out, served, and returned, and I was placed under the necessity, it was my duty ex debito justiciæ, of ordering an attachment to issue. I conceive, therefore, that any objection arising out of Mr. Barnikel having been admitted to sue as a pauper, and that a part of this bill of costs extends over the time during which he was suing in formâ pauperis, to be an objection which it is not competent for me now to adjudicate upon. I may say further, that if the question had been raised at the proper time, although I should have been strongly against giving such portion of the costs as was incurred after the 14th of February, I do not go the length of saying that it would not have been perfectly competent to this Court to have extended the costs over the whole period of the cause. The second objection involves a question of much greater difficulty, viz. the objection to the endorsement upon the writ, which is in the following terms: (Court here read the endorsement and proceeded to observe),—It has been argued by Dr. Addams, that in case the attachment should be illegal and void by reason of the terms in which the attachment had been directed to the marshal of the Queen's Prison, that it would be competent to the Court to amend the error by issuing a fresh attachment against Mr. Barnikel. That is a question which

am not prepared to enter into at the present moment; and with regard to the objection itself, as it is one of considerable importance involving the liberty of the subject, I must take further time before I decide upon it. I will transmit to the registrar the order which I shall be inclined to make.

The judge having subsequently considered the validity of the last objection, declined to supersede the attachment, or to order the release of Mr. Barnikel.

1844.
7th August.
THE
PLYM.

THE TWO FRIENDS.

[HIS was a cause of salvage, promoted by the owners and crew of the John Blake for services rendered to this vessel.

The circumstances of the case, which were somewhat peculiar, are fully noticed in the judgment of the Court.

For the salvors, *Haggard and Elphinstone.*

For the owners, *Queen's Advocate and White.*

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

This case is in some respects attended with peculiar circumstances, more especially in the following particular: viz. that the asserted salvors, with regard to their own vessel, had experienced a misfortune very similar to that which had befallen the vessel which now proceeded against. I will now consider, in the first instance, what had occurred to the vessel, the Two Friends, antecedent to the time when the reasons from the John Blake fell in with her. It appears that she was originally bound on a voyage from Newport to the island of St. Thomas, but her destination having been subsequently changed in

5th November.
The crew of a stranded vessel having taken to their boats, in making for the nearest land fall in with another vessel also stranded and abandoned by the crew. Having boarded the vessel they succeeded in getting her off and bringing her safely to England. A claim to participate in the salvage set up by the owner of the vessel to which the salvors belonged, upon the ground that the salvors were enabled to reach the vessel salved solely by means of the boats and the use of his compass; 2ndly, that some of the salvors were his apprentices. £300 awarded

1844.
5th November.

THE
Two FRIENDS.
to the actual
salvors. Claim
of the owner
rejected.

consequence of the state of the markets in island, she was proceeding for the Havannah, w upon the 27th of February last, she struck up rock, off which she floated, but unfortunately a struck upon another rock in the neighbourl Her crew, having remained by her until the : left the vessel in two of her boats for the purpo procuring assistance from the Havannah, and made accordingly for that place, where they ar upon the 5th of March. Considering what occ subsequently, I think it is not of very great imp ance to pursue an inquiry whether at the time quitted the Two Friends the master and crew of vessel entertained any rational expectation of eventual rescue from the dangerous position in w she was placed. It is perfectly clear that when reached the Havannah, they were unable, even the assistance of the consignees, to induce any son to embark in the enterprise of going out t assistance, and in consequence thereof the vesse in point of fact become entirely and altogether a doned. Let us now advert to the case of the Blake. She was bound, it appears, on a voyage Colombia to Cork, to call at Falmouth for or She sailed from Cape Antonio or Cuba on her h ward course, and upon the 6th of March last, about thirty or forty miles from Cape Antonio, sh on to a reef of rocks, off which she subsequ floated, and again struck and became fixed. stated in the protest and affidavit of the master crew, that after forty-eight hours exertion they forced to abandon her; and it would seem that abandonment actually took place upon the 9t March, when they left the vessel in the long bo jolly boat, having secured a sufficiency of provis

and some sails and a compass, and having further provided themselves with two coils of rope for the purpose of saving their lives. Whilst making for the island of Cuba, they fell in with the Two Friends in the then abandoned state to which I have already referred. Having boarded her, as they state, they found her with two anchors down. These anchors they weighed, and threw overboard part of the cargo of the vessel, and finally they got the vessel to sea, pursuing a course towards England, because they had no information as to the destination of the vessel ; and from the inscription on the stern, they were led to suppose that she belonged to the island of Jersey. I may here observe, that in so doing, these persons adopted a wise and proper course under the circumstances in which they were placed. They set out further in their protest, in rather figurative terms, the reason of their determination to adopt this course. "They did it," they say, "for the benefit of the ship and cargo and of all persons interested in the same, and for the preservation of their own lives ; and they did so after having with the deepest deliberation and concern considered what was the best course." From this statement it would appear that there were a variety of motives which induced them to adopt the plan they finally pursued, viz. the safety of the vessel and cargo, and the preservation of their own lives. It is indeed stated subsequently in the act on petition, and also in an affidavit, that they might have reached the island of Cuba in safety ; be it so ; the Court must still recollect the undoubtedly dangerous spot they were in with their boats, and at a distance according to their own statement of about thirty-five miles from the port which they were desirous of reaching. The

1844.
5th November.
THE
Two FRIENDS.

1844.
5th November.
**THE
Two FRIENDS.**

Two Friends having been thus got off, pursued her voyage to England, and arrived at Dartmouth upon the 20th of April, having encountered, as it is alleged, some bad weather in her voyage. The value of the property is £1237, from which sum of course a deduction must be made on account of a claim which is preferred by the Admiralty Proctor, in having in the first instance taken possession of her and procuring a valuation thereof. The question then remains, what amount of remuneration is due to the persons who have thus brought the vessel home in safety? I am most clearly of opinion, that it is beyond all doubt a question of derelict; but at the same time that it is not a case of any very peculiar merit. The amount of reward to be allotted in case of derelict it is well known rests entirely in the discretion of the Court. In a very early case Lord Stowell said, "The amount of remuneration used to be a moiety, but that practice has long been departed from; and those who have sat in this chair have for a length of time determined that they will apportion the reward according to the merits of those who claim to be salvors, not exceeding a moiety of the proceeds, except perhaps in one or two particular cases." In the present instance it appears to me, that in determining what proportion of the property shall be allotted as salvage remuneration, I must first determine who are entitled in the character of salvors at all; and this of course involves the question whether the claim of the owner of the John Blake can be in any manner supported. What are the grounds upon which his claim is rested? Not upon the ground most undoubtedly that any actual assistance was rendered by his vessel, because she was lost and abandoned before the alleged salvors

n with the Two Friends. It has however been
ended, that he is entitled to participate upon two
nds ; first, upon the ground that the assistance
rendered by his boats, sails and compass ; and
idly, because two or three of his apprentices were
erned in performing the service. Now really I
t, so far as my recollection serves me, remember
claim resting upon so slight a foundation as this.
, the boats, in all probability, were themselves
l by the circumstance of meeting with the ship.
t would have become of these boats if they had
net with the vessel ? Either they might have
lost in attempting the passage to Cuba, or they
d have been left at Cuba, and have been totally
less and unserviceable to their owner. With
ct to the two coils of rope and the compass,
, I must say, are matters far too minute to lay
foundation of a claim for salvage. Again, with
ct to the apprentices, I at once decidedly pro-
ce against the claim of the owner upon any such
id. I consider the allotment of salvage to be
sonal reward, bestowed for labour and skill, dis-
d in the performance of a certain service ; and
her the alleged salvors be apprentices or not, no
person has a right to interfere in that property
belongs to them. Upon the whole view of the
thinking this was a case as truly stated by
Queen's Advocate, in which mutual benefit was
ed by the salvors as well as rendered to the
, I think I shall allot an ample amount, if I de-
to them the sum of £300, together with the
of the proceedings.

1844
5th November.
THE
TWO FRIENDS.



*1845.
4th February.*

Bounties upon
the capture of
piratical prahns
decreed in re-
spect of their
crews under the
stat. 6 Geo. 4,
c. 49.

SERHASSAN—PIRATES.

THE petition in this case set forth that H.M. ship of war Dido, under command of the Honourable Captain Keppel, being at the port of Singapore, a notice was addressed to Captain Keppel, informing him that an act of piracy had been committed on a vessel trading to Singapore by pirates infesting the coast of Borneo and Tanjong Dattoo. That H. M. ship Dido thereupon sailed from Singapore, and having anchored off Tanjong Assi, on the north west coast of Borneo, the pinnace and two cutters belonging to the Dido were despatched, under the command of Lieutenant Horton, then senior lieutenant of the ship, to reconnoitre for pirates, with orders to proceed first to the island of Mohrundun, thence to the Natunas islands, about forty miles distant, and thence to Sarawack. That Mr. S. B., belonging to a trading establishment at Sarawack, was at his own suggestion, by reason of his being well acquainted with the Malay language, and his general local experience, taken as a passenger in the pinnace. That on the morning of the 10th of May, 1843, on the boats nearing an island called Serhassan, off the coast of Borneo, six large native prahns were observed rounding a point of land on the said island, and approaching the boats with loud cries, accompanied by the beating of gongs and other indications of hostility; whereupon Lieutenant Horton directed the boats to form and advance abreast towards the said prahns, and having approached sufficiently near, Mr. B. hailed the prahns in their native language, demanding their purpose, a flag of truce, viz. a blue ensign, being hoisted and pendant, and the gun being covered with a coat. That the prahns notwithstanding continued to ap-

proach, and when within 150 yards commenced firing on the boats, whereupon a contest ensued and continued for a few minutes, when one of the large prahns (the crew whereof had fought with great bravery) struck her colours and called for quarter, which was immediately granted, and the prahn taken possession of. That the other five prahns made off for the shore with the two cutters in chase, between whom a constant fire was kept up until the prahns reached the shore, when they were instantly abandoned and taken possession of by the said cutters. That seven or eight dead bodies were found on board the prahn which had struck to the pinnace, as also at least twenty-five others who were taken and secured. That the loss of life on board the five other prahns was not less than twenty-two men, forming an aggregate of at least fifty-five piratical persons either taken and secured or killed in action. That the crew of each of the large prahns consisted of not less than thirty men, and the crew of the smaller prahns of not less than ten men, making a total of not less than one hundred and twenty men who were alive and on board such piratical vessels at the beginning of the attack. That each of the large prahns was armed with three long brass swivels, muskets, spears and knives, and the smaller prahns with small firearms, spears and knives. That no proceedings were taken against the pirates who had been captured, and who were, after a time, released, after having expressed great contrition for their offence, inasmuch as it was deemed expedient by Mr. B. and Lieutenant Horton to spare their lives after the severe lesson they had received, in the hope that in the event of a shipwreck occurring off the coast, they would be less actuated by revenge to perpetrate the cruelties formerly prac-

1846.
4th February.
THE
SERHASSAN.

1845.
4th February.

THE
SERHASSAN.

tised by them, having assured them that should this ever again occur, the whole of the island would be destroyed by her majesty's vessels.

Upon this statement of facts,

Addams moved the Court to pronounce that there were on board the said piratical prahns one hundred and twenty men at the commencement of the action, and that fifty-five were either killed or taken, and to decree the higher rate of bounty for the same under the provisions of the statute 6 Geo. IV. c. 49.

The motion was opposed by the *Queen's Advocate*, upon the ground that there was not sufficient evidence to establish the fact that the crews of the prahns were *pirates*, so as to entitle the crews of the cutters to the bounties under the act.

Per Curiam.

The question which I have to determine is whether or not the attack which was made upon the British pinnace and the two other boats constituted an act of piracy on the part of these prahns, so as to bring the persons who were on board within the legal denomination of pirates.

The preamble of the act which has been referred to (6 Geo. 4, c. 49,) is in these words : (Court read the preamble of the act, and observed)—Now in my apprehension no form of words could more plainly express the intention of the legislature than the terms which are here adopted. The import of them is obviously to comprehend all acts of piracy by whomsoever committed, and to declare that it is not necessary, in order to found a claim to the bounties given by the statute, that the attack should be confined to persons carrying on piracy as a regular occupation.

The only question then is, was the attack made by the persons on board these prahns an act of piracy or not ?

1845.
4th February.
THE
SERHASSAN.

It appears that every effort was made on the part of Lieutenant Horton to prevent a conflict and unnecessary bloodshed. Signals were made, and other measures were adopted for this purpose. Yet these persons, regardless of the consequences, and for no reason that I can understand to justify their conduct, nevertheless persisted in attacking the British force. It has been suggested by the *Queen's Advocate* that the attack was probably unintentional, and that the parties who made it might not have been able to distinguish the British flag. It is utterly impossible that I can give any weight to such a suggestion. It matters not that they may possibly have entertained no inclination to bring themselves in conflict with the British power ; it is sufficient, in my view of the question, to clothe their conduct with a piratical character if they were armed and prepared to commence a piratical attack upon any other persons.

That the attack was premeditated is clearly shown by the fact that an ambush was placed on shore to cut off the detachment, in case they should land. It can make no difference whether they were inhabitants of that or any other island ; nor can it be imagined that the title of pirate attaches solely to persons following an avowed piratical occupation upon the high sea. In the seas where this transaction took place there is every species of distinction to be found. There are, for example, persons who carry on the sole business of pirates, and whose only occupation is piracy. There are others, again, who resort to it only at fixed and particular periods ; whilst others are there found, who, availing themselves of contingent

1846.
4th February.

THE
SERHABAN.

circumstances, show a piratical disregard of all rights only as opportunities favourable to the attempt may arise.

Upon the whole I see nothing to induce me to doubt the construction of the statute as fairly applying to the circumstances of this particular case. I must, therefore, consider that the act has made it my duty to pronounce that the bounty is due. In so doing, I wish it to be understood that my decision cannot be made a precedent for other cases of the kind where the circumstances may be different. Every one of these cases must depend upon its own merits, and upon the locality where the transaction takes place.

I am of opinion that the parties before the Court are entitled to the bounties which they claim. It appears that there were one hundred and twenty pirates on board the vessels at the commencement of the conflict, and that forty-five were captured or destroyed. For these they are entitled to the higher rate of bounty.

Court awarded accordingly.



THE PAULINE.

8th March.

A vessel which had stranded within low-water mark and which was taken possession of by the bailiff and the lord of the manor, not at low water, but when the tide was in to the extent of

IN this case the Pauline, a French vessel, laden with a cargo of wines and tobacco, having run ashore upon the Pole Sand, at the mouth of the river Exe, upon the 27th of March, 1843, was abandoned by her crew, and upon the following day she was discovered and taken possession of by the water bailiff of the manor of Kenton, of which manor the Earl of Devon is lord.

The vessel and cargo having been subsequently sold as derelict under the warrant of the Court, the proceeds were brought into the registry, and an appearance was given on behalf of Mr. Wilkinson, in whom it was alleged vested the legal ownership of the manor and royalty of Kenton, and who claimed the said proceeds as being the proceeds of property stranded upon the manor within low-water mark, and a spot left high and dry at the receding of the tide, thereby constituting *wreckum maris*.

This claim was resisted by the Admiralty Proctor, who claimed the property on behalf of the crown, as *droits of admiralty*.

The cause was argued by

Queen's Advocate and *Phillimore*, on behalf of the crown.

Addams and *Bayford*, for the lord of the manor.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

The question in this case lies between the crown, as entitled to all *droits of Admiralty*, and in substance the Earl of Devon, claiming as lord of the manor and royalty of Kenton, and asserted grantee of all *wreck* found thereon. The nature of the latter claim is not very specifically set forth in the proceedings in the cause, and it is unnecessary for the purpose of the discussion that I should more particularly inquire into it, because by the consent of the party claimant with the acquiescence of the law officers of the crown, the claim has been rested upon the same footing as an ordinary claim for *wreck*. The question then resolves itself into the simple question whether the property in this vessel be *wreckum maris* or a *droit of Admiralty*. If the former, the lord of

1845.
8th March.

THE PAULINE.

some feet, condemned as *droits of Admiralty*. Claim of the lord of the manor to the proceeds of the sale thereof as *wreckum maris* overruled. Semblable, the jurisdiction of the Admiralty subsists at the time when the shore is covered with water; the jurisdiction of the common law when the land is left dry.

1845.
8th March.

THE
PAULINE.

the manor is clearly entitled ; if the latter, the right of the crown as clearly attaches. With respect to priority of taking possession of the vessel, I am of opinion that no satisfactory conclusion can be drawn in favour of either party. It appears to me that the representatives of each party boarded her at one and the same moment ; and indeed had it been otherwise, I do not conceive that this circumstance would have been of any importance in the consideration of the case, inasmuch that the question of right would, I apprehend, depend not upon priority of seizure, but upon the nature and description of the locality where the property was so taken possession of. What, then, are the facts of the case ? The vessel, it is alleged, was taken possession of upon the 28th of March last, and the place in which she was lying at the time is stated on behalf of the lord of the manor to be within low-water mark. For the purpose of this suit, the counsel for the crown have been content to argue the case upon the assumption that the locus in quo was within low-water mark, I must, therefore, to a certain extent at least, assume the fact to be so. I may here notice, before I proceed to examine further into the facts of the case, that the locus in quo is not alleged to be within the body of the county. This, in my opinion, is an important circumstance in the case. It has been argued indeed that the lord of the manor has always exercised rights over the place, not only as to wreck, but also in taking payment for ballast. Assuming the fact to be so, I do not see that it can materially affect the question which I have to decide. If it had been alleged and proved that the locus in quo was within the body of a county, most assuredly that circumstance would have had the greatest weight. The mere fact, however, of taking

payment for ballast, standing alone, cannot, I conceive, have any material bearing upon my decision, because it is obvious that such a claim may be founded upon the assumption that the sand when dry was within the county, as in the ordinary case of the sea shore when so circumstanced.

Looking further into the facts of the case, it appears that the river Exe flows between the sand where the vessel was lying, and the actual land to the northward. The claim, however, is not derived from the possession of the manor on that part of the Exe, but of another manor, which extends from Powderham. Had the vessel gone ashore at Exmouth, the lord of the latter manor would, even if entitled to the bed of the river, clearly have had no claim. The claim, as I understand it, is strictly founded upon the assumption that the sand in question forms a part of the shore which in the map is designated as the "Warren," and which it is to be noticed is expressly stated in the chart to be covered with water, as is also the land approximating to the Pole Sands. Now, giving to the evidence of Lieutenant Corneck, who has made an affidavit in support of the claim of the lord of the manor, the utmost effect which I think can be fairly ascribed to it; I will assume that at certain times as stated by Lieutenant Corneck, this locus in quo is left dry and may be reached by persons on foot; the next consideration is, what was the actual situation of the vessel at the particular time when she was taken possession of by Lieutenant Corneck only on behalf of the lord of the manor. Upon this point there can, I think, be no doubt whatever. It is distinctly sworn by Lieutenant Corneck himself that the persons who boarded the vessel were in a boat, and that such boat was floated by the water. It is ob-

1845.
8th March.

THE
PAULINE.

1845.
8th March.

THE
PAULINE.

vious, therefore, that she was not taken possession at low water, but when the tide was in to the depth of some feet, whether more or less is of no consequence. It is, I conceive, equally immaterial in the consideration of the case, whether the vessel was actually fixed in the sand at the time, because, I conceive, it would be impossible to hold the place in which she was lying she could have been completely and perfectly fixed as to enable a person to affirm with certainty that, if left to herself, she might not have been extricated by the influence of the wind and waves. Upon this state of facts now called upon to determine to whom in law the possession of the property legally belongs, and in forming my opinion it appears to me that judgment must be guarded by the consideration whether at the time and place in question the jurisdiction of the Admiralty and that of the common law attached. Suppose, for instance, that, on the passing of the statute, a felony had been committed on board a vessel *similarly situated* to the vessel in this case, would the parties have been tried for the offence at the Admiralty Sessions, by the judge of the Admiralty as under the existing state of the law, or would they have been amenable to the process of the common law? It is clearly of opinion that the jurisdiction of the Admiralty would have prevailed, and for the following reason, viz. that the place was not within the county of the county, and was not dry, but covered

the shore is covered with water; the jurisdiction of the common law when the land is left dry. The same doctrine has also been clearly and concisely stated in a valuable treatise lately published by Mr. Palmer upon Wreck; and in the practice of the Court the doctrine has been carried out in the decisions of Sir John Nicholl in the two cases which have been cited in the course of the argument. In whatever way then I examine the facts of this case before me, either with reference to the earlier authorities, or to the judgment of Sir John Nicholl, I am led to the same conclusion as Sir John Nicholl in his decision in the case of the Two Casks of Tallow, viz. that it is my duty to pronounce against the claim which is set up on behalf of the lord of the manor in the present instance. The present claim, it is to be observed, in one respect differs from the case decided by Sir John Nicholl, viz. that the claim is not rested upon any admiralty rights especially conferred upon the lord of the manor, but is a mere territorial claim, that is, a claim for something annexed to the manor itself. It is also further to be observed, that it is a claim which directly involves the rights of the crown; rights vested in the crown for the benefit of the country at large, and in some respects it may be said for the benefit of all who sail upon the sea. It is therefore especially the duty of the Court, as it is of all Courts where the rights of the crown are called in question, not to suffer the crown to be divested of any of those rights at the suit and demand of a subject, unless that demand is established by the most stringent and most satisfactory evidence.

Under the circumstances of the case, therefore, I pronounce against the claim which has been set up,

1845.
8th March.

THE
PAULINE.

1845.
8th March.
THE
PAULINE.

of course decreeing in favour of the lord of the manor for the casks which actually came on shore according to the distinction to which I have adverted in my judgment.

Addams applied for the costs incurred by the lessee of the manor, but the Court declined to give costs upon the ground that it had no authority to decree the expenses without the consent of the crown (*a*).

(*a*) Since the decision on the case, an act has passed for consolidating and amending the laws relating to wreck and salvage. *Vide Appendix.*

THE DOWTHORPE. LOFTY.

1845.
8th March.

THIS was a question as to the disposal of a remnant of the freight earned by this vessel, and originally brought into the Registry in a cause of bottomry. The general question was argued in March, 1843, and is reported *suprà*, vol. ii. pt. 1, . 73.

Claim of a ship-broker to the remnant of freight remaining in the Registry in a cause of bottomry dismissed with costs.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

On a former occasion I had to determine whether the freight arising from sixteen shares of this vessel, sold by Mr. Lofty, had been legally assigned to Messrs. Birnie & Co. by a deed dated in May, 1842; and I was of opinion, that such deed was altogether operative for the purpose, because Mr. Lofty was party to it, and because Mr. Nicoll, by whom it was executed, had no authority to bind the interest of Mr. Lofty. It now appears that a small portion of this freight (all prior demands against it being satisfied) remains in the Registry of the Court, and a portion is claimed by the assignees of Mr. Lofty, and by Mr. Nicoll, the claim of Mr. Nicoll being based upon a certain deed or document which purports to have been dated in February, 1841. I must here observe, that when the former question was debated reference whatever was made to this document, and I cannot but express my surprise that it should have been introduced for the first time to the consideration of the Court, because it is obvious that if Mr. Nicoll had, by virtue of this document, become entitled to the freight in question, the production of the deed would most essentially have supported the claim of Messrs. Birnie, who deduce their title from Mr. Nicoll himself.

1845.
8th March.

THE
DOWTHEORPE.

Assuming then, for the purpose of the present discussion, that the document is a true copy of a deed executed between Mr. Lofty and Mr. Nicoll, and that such copy is legally admissible in evidence on account of the loss of the original deed, the question which I have to determine is confined to a mere question of construction; for the solution of which I must proceed to examine the document itself, and to state such of its contents as are in any way important. The paper upon the face of it purports, in the first place, to be an agreement entered into on the 26th of February, 1841, between T. Humphry on the one part, Mr. Lofty on the second part, and Mr. Nicoll of the third part; whereby Mr. Lofty agrees to hold sixteen sixty-fourth shares of the ship, and binds himself not to sell them or any part thereof without giving Mr. Humphry the pre-option of purchase, Mr. Humphry and Mr. Lofty further guaranteeing to Mr. Nicoll the sole control and management of the ship, so far as their shares are concerned, and so long as they continue to be holders of such shares. Now what is the effect of the agreement as it is thus far expressed? It is, I apprehend, to confer upon Mr. Nicoll authority as broker and as broker only, and unless there be something more in the deed, it would be impossible to hold that it conveyed to Mr. Nicoll the power of dealing with the freight. What follows? The next stipulation is, that Mr. Nicoll is to receive a commission for the management of the ship, viz. two-and-a-half per cent. upon all freight and passage-money, and one per cent. upon all receipts and payments and upon all insurances to be made and effected by him; Mr. H. and Mr. L. agreeing to supply their proportion of whatever moneys may be required from time to time by the said J. N. for repairs

and other expenses of the ship. This clause is, I conceive, an important clause, and deserving of much consideration; and for this reason, viz. that it shows that the owners were to find the necessary funds for the expenses of the ship, and at the same time it effectually excludes any intention on their parts that any portion of these expenses were to be advanced by Mr. Nicoll, or that he was to hold the freight as an indemnity for such advances. It is next stipulated that all "freight and passage-money received, and all sums expended on account of the ship, shall be carried to one general account, and the profits and losses shall be divided amongst the shareholders, in proportion to their respective shares in the vessel." The expression "received," it is to be noticed, is general, and is clearly applicable to all freight by whomsoever received; it is moreover, as I conceive, expressly used for the purpose of settling the rights and liabilities of the owners of the ship in proportion to the shares they hold in the vessel, and was never intended to confer upon any particular person a new right to receive the freight, much less to give to Mr. Nicoll individually any control over such freight beyond that which the law gave him. I have now gone through the whole of the agreement, so far as it is important to the elucidation of the present question; and I am really at a loss to conceive upon which part of the agreement the claim of Mr. Nicoll can be supported. I have carefully examined my former judgment, in order to see if there was any thing in that judgment which could in any way militate against the opinion I am now about to pronounce. The result of this examination confirms me in the opinion, that upon this instrument, as upon the other, there is no legal foundation for the claim of Mr. Nicoll to take this freight

1845.
8th March.
THE
DOWTHORPE.

*1845.
8th March.*

*THE
DOWTHORPE.*

out of the power of the assignees. It is therefore my duty to pronounce against the claim, and, looking at the small amount of the property which has been made the subject of this litigation, I must pronounce against that claim with costs.



17th April.

*Construction of
the stat. 3 & 4
Vict. c. 69.*

In order to establish that the necessaries supplied to a foreign ship or vessel are necessaries within the meaning of the act, the vessel must be in a state of exigency at the time; and the articles supplied must consist of articles needful for the relief of such exigency.

Articles supplied for the equipment of a vessel building in a foreign dock-yard not necessaries within the meaning of the statute.

THE OCEAN. MASTELOW.

THIS was a suit promoted under the act of parliament 3 & 4 Vict. c. 69, for necessaries alleged to have been supplied to this vessel whilst building at Jacobstadt, in the kingdom of Finland.

The act on petition stated, that the several necessaries, amounting to £411: 9s. 3d., were personally selected and ordered by J. F. Bergenstrom for the equipment of the Ocean, then building at Jacobstadt in the kingdom of Finland, and whereof the said J. F. B. and C. S. L., of Jacobstadt, were the owners. That upon the 4th of May, 1840, the said necessaries were shipped on board a vessel under the command of the said J. F. B.; and, having been carried to Jacobstadt, were fitted and supplied to the said new vessel, and were absolutely necessary and suitable for her equipment. That said vessel upon being launched was placed under the command of the said J. F. B., and that she has never since been in any port of Great Britain until quite recently, when she was compelled to put into Plymouth through stress of weather. That the articles or necessaries so supplied are still on board the said vessel, and form a part of her tackle and apparel, and have been duly identified; and that repeated application has been made to the said J. F. B. and C. S. L. for the payment of the same, but without effect.

In answer to this act on petition it was pleaded, that in the month of May, 1843, the said ship sailed from Wyborg in Finland, laden with timber and deals, and bound for Cette in France. That whilst said ship was lying in that port, the said C. S. L. having become insolvent and a bankrupt, the said ship was sold at public auction by order of the assignees for the benefit of the creditors; and was purchased bona fide by P. M. of Jacobstadt, a subject of the Emperor of Russia, who is still the true, lawful and sole owner and proprietor of the said ship. That the necessaries in question were furnished before the ship was built or afloat, and upon the personal credit of the said J. F. B.; and that the demand for payment of the same can only be enforced like any common debt, and can form no lien upon the ship. That the plaintiffs in the suit had been guilty of great laches in not enforcing their demand by legal proceedings against the said J. F. B. and C. S. L.; wherefore, &c.

It was further pleaded in a reply, that the articles in question were not furnished upon personal credit at all; but supplied in the full belief and assurance that under the act 3 & 4 Vict. for extending the jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty, the plaintiffs had a lien upon such ship for the said articles.

The case was argued by

Addams for the material men.

R. Phillimore, contrà.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

It is perfectly clear that, prior to the act of parliament 3 & 4 Vict. c. 69, this Court possessed no jurisdiction over the subject-matter of the present suit.

1845.
17th April.
THE OCEAN.

1845.
17th April.
THE
OCEAN.

Before that statute was passed, the articles which are alleged to have been furnished to this vessel, would not have formed a lien upon the ship itself, and in order to recover the payment of these articles the remedy must have been sought in a court of common law, and the action must have been brought against the owners, provided they were residing in this country. For the purpose of obviating certain inconveniences which were found to result under the ancient law, the statute in question was enacted; and in order to ascertain its true bearing upon the question before me, it is important that I should now more immediately consider the words of the 6th section. The 6th section provides, "that the High Court of Admiralty shall have jurisdiction to determine all claims and demands whatsoever, in the nature of salvage for services rendered, or damage received, by any ship or sea-going vessel, or in the nature of towage, or for necessaries supplied to any foreign ship or sea-going vessel; and to enforce payment thereof, whether such ship or vessel may have been within the body of a county or upon the high sea at the time when the services were rendered, or the damage received, or the necessaries furnished, in respect of which such claim is made."

From these words it would seem, that the former portion of this section is intended to refer generally to all ships or sea-going vessels, whilst the latter is to receive a more limited construction, and is to be confined exclusively to foreign vessels. The intention of the legislature in thus framing the section is, I conceive, obvious upon the face of it. Before the statute was passed, all claims for salvage, and all questions of damage, as also all demands for towage services, when the transaction took place within the body

of a county, were cognizable in the courts of common law alone: if this Court had proceeded to adjudicate in the matter, it would have been subjected to a prohibition. For the convenience of parties who might so render services, or receive a damage, it was deemed expedient to restore the ancient jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty, and in so doing to give the option of proceeding by the more summary process of this Court instead of compelling an action at law. So much for the earlier portion of the 6th section. It remains that I should now consider the clause with respect to "necessaries supplied to any foreign ship or sea-going vessel." These, I have already stated, are confined exclusively to foreign vessels; and the intention of the legislature in making the provision was, to remedy great inconveniences which had formerly occurred in cases of foreign vessels driven by stress of weather upon the coasts of this country. In such cases, it often happened that the master had no credit, and great difficulties were experienced in providing the requisite repairs, and in obtaining a supply of necessities for the further prosecution of the voyage.

With a view of encouraging the advancement of these supplies, and thereby facilitating the progress of vessels so situated to their ports of destination, the jurisdiction of this Court was enlarged by the 6th section of the act under consideration. But to what extent?—In my view of it, only to the extent of embracing the cases of necessity to which I have adverted. I cannot for a moment conceive it was ever the intention of the legislature to confer upon this Court the species of jurisdiction which is attributed to this statute by the parties who are promoting this suit, viz. that if any articles whatsoever, which may be requisite and necessary for the fitting out a vessel, are furnished

1845.
17th April.

THE
OCEAN.

1846.
17th April.

The
OCEAN.

to a foreign ship,—that ship being at the time in any part of the world, or, as in the present case, even building in a foreign dockyard,—this Court may enforce a lien upon that vessel at the suit of a British merchant or manufacturer who may have supplied such articles, and the vessel may be proceeded against by the process of this Court, if at any time after she should come within the Admiralty jurisdiction. Such a construction of the statute would, I conceive, be in direct defiance not only of the ancient law of this country, but of the general maritime law of Europe. It would, moreover entail upon the Court, in the exercise of this branch of its jurisdiction, the greatest inconveniences. For example, it would, in the first place, be incumbent upon the Court in all cases of this kind to determine as matter of fact, whether the articles asserted to have been furnished were actually supplied or not; it would also have further to investigate and ascertain, what would at all times be matter of great difficulty, whether new and supervening claims upon the ship had not been acquired in the nature of salvage or bottomry, or by transfer of the vessel from one owner to another. These inconveniences, if I entertained any doubt in my own mind as to the true construction of this statute, would preponderate strongly in influencing my decision against the claim which is set up by the promoters of the present suit. But I do not entertain any doubt in deciding, that in order to bring a claim of this kind within the legal construction of the act of parliament, the vessel must be in a state of existing exigency; and the necessities supplied must consist of articles which are requisite at the time and in the condition in which that vessel is placed. These points have not been established by the promoters of this suit in the present

instance ; and consequently the claim which they set up cannot be supported. The owner of this vessel, therefore, must be dismissed, and, as he is a foreigner, it is my duty to decree him the costs of these proceedings.

1845.
17th April.
THE
OCEAN.

Claim dismissed with costs.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL. LIGHT.

6th May.

THIS was a question as to the admission of a libel in a suit for subtraction of wages, promoted by the late master of this vessel, under the statute 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112, s. 16 (a).

The libel consisted of four articles ; and the third article pleaded, " That the said C. F. is insolvent,

(a) The 16th section provides, " that all the rights, liens, privileges and remedies (save such remedies as are against a master himself), which by this act, or by any law, statute, custom or usage, belong to any seaman or mariner not being a master mariner, in respect to the recovery of his wages, shall in the case of the bankruptcy or insolvency of the owner of the ship, also belong and be extended to masters of ships or master mariners in respect to the recovery of wages due to them from the owner of any ship belonging to any of her majesty's subjects ; and no suit or proceeding for the recovery of wages shall, unless they exceed £20, be instituted against the ship, or the master or owner thereof, either in any Court of Admiralty or Vice-Admiralty Court, or any court of record, in her Majesty's dominions or the territories under the government of the East India Company, unless the owners of the ship shall be bankrupt or insolvent, or the ship shall be under arrest, or sold by the authority of any Admiralty or Vice-Admiralty Courts, or unless any magistrate acting under the authority of this act shall refer the case to be adjudged by any such Court or Courts, or unless neither the owner nor master shall be or reside at or near the port or place where the service shall have terminated, or where any seaman shall have been discharged or put on shore."

Construction of
the stat. 7& 8
Vict. c. 112,
s. 16.
Masters
of vessels are
only entitled to
sue in the Court
of Admiralty for
their wages un-
der the statute
when the owner
has become in-
solvent in the
strict legal sense
of the term, viz.
by taking or ap-
plying for the
benefit of the
Insolvent
Debtors Act.

1845.
6th May.
THE PRINCESS
ROYAL.

and unable to discharge the lawful debts due and owing from him, and hath so declared and admitted to divers persons ; and this is, &c."

Harding, in objection to the libel, contended, that the averment in the third article was insufficient to bring the master's claim within the provisions of the statute. That the mere inability of a ship-owner to discharge the lawful debts owing from him was not the insolvency contemplated by the act. That the term insolvent was restricted to a legal and more limited meaning, viz. an insolvent who had taken or applied for the benefit conferred by the act for the relief of insolvent debtors. That this construction of the term was supported by the decision of the Vice-Chancellor in re the Birmingham Benefit Society, reported in 3 Symons ; and that the decision in that case was directly applicable to the present question.

Haggard, contra.—That the insolvency of the owner was sufficiently pleaded to give the master a persona standi in the suit. That the 16th section of the statute was remedial in its objects, purporting to relieve the masters of vessels from certain disadvantages and disabilities under which they formerly laboured, and must be construed accordingly. That by limiting the term to the strict legal meaning of insolvency under the Insolvent Debtors Act, the masters would in a great measure be deprived of the benefit which the legislature intended to confer upon them ; and there was nothing in the words of the act itself to compel the Court to any such conclusion. That the term "insolvent" stood out in the act wholly unaccompanied by any words of restriction or limi-

on; and may therefore fairly be received by the Court in its general and more extended acceptation.

1845.
6th May.

THE PRINCESS
ROYAL.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

The question in this case arises upon the construction of the act of parliament 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112,—a state which has introduced a very important change in the law as regards the right of masters of vessels to sue for their wages in this Court.

The third article of the libel pleads, that the master of the vessel is insolvent, and is unable to discharge the debts due and owing by him; and it has been contended that the averment so pleaded is sufficient to confer upon the master a persona standi in suit, under the provision of the 16th section of the act. I may here observe, that if the construction which is contended for is to be received in the present instance, it will entail upon the Court great inconvenience and difficulty in all future cases which may come before it under the act in question; because I shall have to determine in this and all similar cases only whether the owner be unable to discharge his debts, but whether such his inability falls within the general acceptance of the term insolvency, as distinguished from the more limited meaning which it has received under the Insolvent Debtors Act. If the construction of parliament compels me to sustain the construction, it will undoubtedly be the duty of the Court not to decline the onus which is cast upon it from any consideration of these difficulties and inconveniences; at the same time it furnishes, I think, a strong argument à priori against the construction in question, for it would involve investigations of this kind in which it would be extremely difficult for the Court,

1845.
6th May.
THE PRINCESS
ROYAL.

with the powers it possesses, to arrive at a perfectly true and satisfactory conclusion.

Now, looking to the words of the 16th section, I find the term "insolvency of the owner of the ship" is repeated more than once. I find, moreover, that each time it is employed, it is used in immediate connection with the word "bankruptcy." In the latter part of the section the words are, "unless the owner of the ship shall be a bankrupt or insolvent, or the ship shall be under arrest, &c." From the repetition of these words in such immediate connexion with each other, I am of opinion that in construing the intention of the act, the words "bankruptcy" and "insolvency" must be taken together. If this be so, it follows, I conceive, that the word "insolvency," as used in this statute, falls within the interpretation put by the Vice-Chancellor in the case of the Birmingham Benefit Society, referred to by Dr. Harding in his argument. In that case, as reported in 3 Symons' Reports, the petition prayed that the trustees of a person who had been treasurer of the society, and had subsequently assigned all his estate and effects for the benefit of his creditors, might be ordered to pay out of the estate a sum of £130 to the petitioners, as "stewards of the charity," in preference to the other creditors. The question entirely turned upon the meaning of the words "bankrupt or insolvent" in the 10th section of the statute 33 Geo. III. c. 54; and on behalf of the defendants it was argued, that as the word "insolvent" was coupled with the word "bankrupt," the act meant a person who had taken the benefit of an act for the relief of insolvent debtors.

The Vice-Chancellor upheld this construction, and dismissed the petition upon the ground that the term

"insolvent" in the act was not a person who had made a mere assignment for the benefit of his creditors, but a person who had taken the benefit of an insolvent debtors act.

Considering that the decision of the Vice-Chancellor, in the case above mentioned, has a direct bearing upon the question before me in this case, I feel no difficulty in concluding that the true meaning and effect of the section in question in the present instance is not to give to this Court a general jurisdiction in all cases where the owner is unable to discharge his pecuniary obligations; but that masters of vessels shall be entitled to resort to this Court for their wages, only when the owner has become insolvent within the strict legal acceptation of the term. In thus limiting the definition of the term "insolvent" as used in this statute, I conceive that I am fairly carrying into effect the meaning of the legislature, so far as it was intended to confer a benefit upon the master. I must therefore reject the libel; and, as the question is a question *prima *impressionis**, I can give no costs.

1845.
6th May.
THE PRINCESS
ROYAL.

THE IRON DUKE. WILLIAMS.

13th May.

N this case the *Parama*, a vessel of 200 tons, and laden with a valuable cargo, whilst on a voyage from Liverpool to Montreal, was run down off the Welsh coast by the *Iron Duke*, a steam-vessel belonging to the Dublin Steam Packet Company, and almost immediately went down, her master and five of the crew being drowned.

A steam-vessel, proceeding at the rate of between 11 and 12 knots an hour in a track where many vessels were passing up and down, condemned in the damage.

1845.
13th May.

THE
IRON DUKE.
Masters of
merchant ves-
sels not com-
pelled to carry
lights.

The action was by plea and proof; and on behalf of the owners of the *Parama*, it was submitted by—

Queen's Advocate and *Haggard*.—That the collision was solely attributable to the misconduct of the master and crew of the steamer, in not keeping a good look-out, and by proceeding at an improper speed. That they were proceeding at the rate of between 11 and 12 knots an hour, in a track much frequented by vessels, whilst, by their own admission, the night was so dark that they could not descry the *Parama* until they were close upon her. That it was proved by the mate of the *Parama*, that the steamer was perceived when she was more than a mile distant; and a powerful light was exhibited from the *Parama*, which must have been discernible by the persons on board the steamer if a good look-out had been kept. That the master, mate and third mate were in bed at the time, and the steamer was left in charge of the second mate only, with only one man in the forecastle on the look-out.

Addams and *Nicholl*, contrà.—That from the greater size of the steamer, and the fact that she had three strong lights, one at her foremost head and one at each bow, the steamer might possibly be discerned at a greater distance than the *Parama* could be seen from the steamer. That the light exhibited from the *Parama* was only exhibited at the last moment, just previous to the collision, and was wholly insufficient for the purpose of giving warning to the steamer. That under the circumstances of the case, the *Parama* was bound to have carried a sufficient light, properly fixed and displayed; and the fact of her not having done so, put the brig's case out of Court, and if the

amer was to blame at all, the damage must be
ially shared between the two vessels. Lastly, that
ere were great discrepancies in the evidence of the
tnesses on the part of the Parama, with respect to
e actual collision in question; and as far as the
lance of credibility was to influence the decision,
e balance was clearly in favour of the statement set
by the steamer.

1846.
13th May.
THE
IRON DUCK.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

Gentlemen,—It was properly observed by one of
e learned counsel, that all questions of this descrip-
on embrace four considerations: first, whether the
lame of the collision is solely imputable to the vessel
roceeded against; secondly, whether it is imputable
o the vessel proceeding in the cause; thirdly, whe-
her both vessels are equally in default; and, lastly,
whether the collision be the result and consequence
f inevitable accident. These four questions we have
o consider and to determine in the present instance;
nd in order to elucidate these points, I must, in the
rst place, request your attention to some of the facts
in the case which it appears to me admit of no rea-
nable doubt or controversy. The collision, you will
serve, is stated to have occurred at the entrance of
e Pilot Ground of the port of Liverpool, the Port
ynas Light being at the time distant about ten miles,
id bearing W. and by N.

The locality being thus defined, it will be for you
judge what (if I may use the expression) were the
cidents of that locality in regard to the probability
a number of vessels sailing in that track in one direc-
m and another. It is further stated, that the wind
as W.N.W. or thereabouts; that the course of the
arama was to the south-westward, on the starboard

1845.
13th May.
THE
IRON DUKE.

tack, close hauled, and that the steamer was proceeding with the wind abeam, in a direction somewhat south-east and by east. These, gentlemen, may be taken as admitted facts in the case; other points have arisen in the course of the discussion respecting which it would, I think, be impossible to come to any satisfactory conclusion if we were bound to examine them with minuteness, and to decide them with absolute precision. With respect, for instance, to the precise period of time at which one vessel was seen from the other, and what was the precise period when a light was hoisted (if any light was hoisted at all). These, I apprehend, are points which it would be impossible to ascertain with any precision and exactness, as well from the complexion of the case itself as also from the nature of human testimony under the circumstances. The same observations, I conceive, would also apply to the question of distance. It is perhaps more or less easy to judge of distances at sea according to the character of the night, the object to which the sight is directed, and more especially according to the skill and practised eye of the individuals engaged in the look-out. When, however, as in the present instance, the evidence of witnesses upon these points has to be considered in a court of law, it will almost inevitably happen that there will be the greatest possible discrepancy in their testimony, without any corrupt intention being fairly imputable to the witnesses themselves. The same observation may, I think, be extended to another point in the case which has been put in issue in the pleadings, and which is much overloaded with evidence in the proofs,—I mean the degree of darkness which prevailed at the time. In the evidence which is before you upon this point, you will perceive, that, whilst some of the witnesses describe

: night as being intensely dark, others affirm with confidence that they could see without difficulty to a very considerable distance from the ship. For my own part, looking to the balance of the evidence, I find no difficulty in concluding with satisfaction to my own mind, that the night must be considered to have been a dark night, though not of intense darkness, and certainly not a hazy or a foggy night, as posited to by a great number of witnesses. In the course of the argument, it was urged by the learned counsel for the Iron Duke, that the testimony of the witnesses for the Parama is in some measure discredited by certain discrepancies which are to be found in their evidence respecting the details of circumstances which attended the collision in question. I am bound to tell you, gentlemen, that in my view of them these discrepancies do not materially affect the issue, and ought not to affect our decision,—and for this reason, viz. that in all accidents of this kind very great confusion must inevitably prevail on board the vessels in collision; and it would be unreasonable to expect that the minor incidents and circumstances should be noted with any very particular accuracy or minuteness. Let us now proceed to consider what was the state of condition, and what were the measures adopted by the master and crew of the Parama, whose owners are seeking in this cause to recover an indemnification for their loss—a loss involving the very considerable sum of £18,000. It is to be remembered in the first place, that the Parama was on the starboard tack, when hauled. Being so situated, upon descrying the steamer, she was bound to keep her course; and it has not been suggested even in argument, that she might or could have done any thing except hoisting a

VOL. II.

D D

1845.
13th May.

THE
IRON DUKE.

1845.
13th May.

THE
IRON DUKE.

light. The question then arises, did she or did she not in fact hoist a light? and if she omitted to do so, does such omission amount to a culpable neglect of any obligation imposed upon her by the ordinary rules of navigation?

In a former case which came under my consideration, and in which I was assisted by two of the gentlemen of the Trinity Board,—I mean the case of the *Rose* (*a*),—the same proposition was mooted; and in delivering the judgment of the Court, I expressed myself in these words.—“ It has also been contended that the *Regina* was in fault in not carrying a light. With respect to the latter point I must observe, that it has been discussed over and over again in former cases of this kind, and I believe there is no occasion in which it has been laid down as a general principle that merchant vessels ought constantly to carry lights. Under certain circumstances, undoubtedly, it may be right and expedient to do so; and whether the *Regina* was bound to have carried a light or not under the circumstances of this particular case, is a point which you will take into your consideration.”

Gentlemen, the course which I adopted in the case of the *Rose*, I intend to pursue in the present instance; and without entering into any nice disquisition, whether merchant vessels ought generally or constantly to carry lights, I shall request your opinion, whether, under the peculiar circumstances of this case, you consider that it was the duty of the persons on board the *Parama* to have carried lights. This question you will consider with reference to your own nautical experience, and also with reference to the place in which the *Parama* was sailing, remembering that if it was the duty of the *Parama* to have

(*a*) Reported *suprà*, vol. ii. pt. 1, p. 4.

ed and hoisted a light, it must have been equally incumbent upon every other vessel sailing in the same to have adopted a similar precaution.

There is one circumstance connected with this of the case, to which I particularly invite your attention, viz. that it is distinctly in evidence that a man who was on board the Parama, in the cabin of that vessel. This is not denied on the part of the Iron Duke; but it is contended on her behalf, that the light in question was not sufficient for the purpose, and that it was incumbent upon the master not only to have had a sufficient light on board, but that he ought to have been prepared with a light, and to have exhibited it in the first instance upon descrying the approach of the steamer. As I have already stated, gentlemen, I leave it entirely up to you to determine whether this ought to have been done or not,—whether it was done or not it is my duty to consider; and, in concluding my observations upon this part of the case, to point out to you the particular evidence that bears upon it. On the part of the Parama, you will observe, it is distinctly averred that the light in question was a globular light, standing high enough from the deck to have thrown a strong reflection on the sails, and to have been visible at a considerable distance. It is also directly sworn in the depositions of some of the witnesses, that for a considerable period before this collision ensued, the mate's light was held over the side of the Parama; that finding the steamer was approaching with great rapidity, the mate began to shout, and then called to the man at the wheel to put the helm hard to starboard.

This is the statement of Hickell, the mate of the Parama; and in reading his evidence, I can see no

1845.
13th May.

THE
IRON DUKE.

1845.
13th May.

THE
IRON DUKE.

thing which is in the slightest degree contrary to probability or inconsistent with the appearance of truth. He is, moreover, supported in this statement by the evidence of Cover, his fellow-witness, who, although he differs with Martin with respect to who was at the helm at the time, in no respect contradicts the averment as to the hoisting of the light.

Another question here arises, was this light hoisted or not hoisted in due time? The three witnesses to whom I have just referred all swear that it was. The question is put to them upon interrogatory, and they are asked whether the hoisting the light and the order to port the helm were distinct or contemporaneous operations. To this question it is answered by one and all, that the order and the act were not contemporaneous, but that a considerable interval, about five minutes, intervened between the hoisting the light and the order to put the helm hard up. If this be so, it is an important feature in the case for the *Parama*; because it is alleged on the part of the steamer, that she was not descried until the last moment, and that the order to put the helm up was only given when the collision was upon the point of taking place.

Having thus far disposed of the case of the vessel which has been run down, I must now address a few observations to you with respect to the conduct of the steamer. The steamer, you will perceive, admits that she was going at full speed, about 11 or 12 knots an hour; that she had one man on the look out and no more; and that the night, though not hazy, was so dark that she never saw the *Parama* until that vessel was actually upon her. Can it be said that in going at such speed upon such a night the master of the steamer was justified in his conduct according to those

es of navigation which have been heretofore re-
ved and laid down in this Court? I apprehend
; and I will here repeat in conclusion of my re-
arks, what I laid down in the case of the Rose,—
hat although it may be a matter of convenience
t steam-vessels should proceed with great rapidity,
law will not justify them in proceeding with such
idity if the property and lives of other persons are
reby endangered."

Gentlemen, you will now have to consider the se-
al points to which I have called your attention,
I shall be glad to receive from you a distinct op-
n, whether you think the Parama was to blame in
y part of her conduct, or whether the Iron Duke
s to blame.

1845.
13th May.

**THE
IRON-DUKE.**

Trinity Masters.

We think that the Parama did nothing wrong;
r opinion is, that she did show a light, although it
was a very short time before the collision. We fur-
think that, under ordinary circumstances, sailing
vessels do not show a light, and are not required to
so. There is a rule, that if a vessel wants a pilot she
ows a light, and the pilot should also show a light;
t this rule does not apply to sailing vessels. With
pect to the conduct of the steamer, we are of op-
n that, considering the admitted darkness of the
ght, and that many vessels were boarded during the
ght by pilots in the neighbourhood of the place
ere the collision took place, the Iron Duke was not
vigated with that degree of caution which was re-
iste on such a night and in such a neighbourhood.
e master, chief mate and third mate were all in
d, which proves an indifference to their responsibi-

1846.
13th May.

lity perfectly unjustifiable under the circumstances of the case.

THE
IRON DUKE.

Damage pronounced

NOTE.—This decision was appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and the sentence of the Court was affirmed.

12th June.

The time and place in which a vessel should be brought up is entirely within the province of the pilot, and the master must be governed upon these points by the pilot's direction.

Owners of a vessel running down another vessel at anchor in the Bristol Channel dismissed, but without costs.

THE GEORGE. ROBERTS.

THIS was a cause of damage promoted by the owners of the late schooner Nora Creina & the cargo laden on board. The actions were entered in the sum of £6500.

The act on petition set forth, that the Nora Creina, of the burthen of 163 tons, arrived in King's Channel in the Bristol Channel, on the 11th of November 1844, bound to the port of Bristol, with a cargo of valonia. That about 5 p. m. of the following evening, whilst lying at anchor in about 10 fathoms of water, the signal light, consisting of a large globe lamp, giving a clear and strong light and visible at a very considerable distance, was made fast to the inner jib-stay. That the wind was blowing from the west and the tide flowing, the weather being thick at the time, but not so thick but that lights in common use on board vessels might be seen at five or six cables' length off. That between past 5 and 6 p. m., a large vessel (the George) descried by the mate at the distance of between two and three cables' length, running from the west directly in a line for the schooner. That the mate immediately called to the master, who was below in

bin, and who thereupon instantly ran upon deck, id, loosening the tiller, which had been fastened to keep it steady, put it hard a starboard into a rope cket, seeing a collision was inevitable, and then went rward. That before the master had passed the fore-ast, the George drove athwart the hawse of the hooner, and carried away her bowsprit, and stove her bows, besides doing other damage. That the olence of the collision causing the chain of the hooner to part, both vessels drove against the barque reland, then at anchor about three cables astern of he schooner, whereby the said schooner received fur-her damage, and eventually sunk and was totally st. That the said schooner had since been raised, nd sold for the sum of £131. That the said collision was entirely owing to the want of a good look-out on board the George ; and had such a look-out been kept he said schooner must have been observed in suffi-ent time to have enabled the George to alter her ourse, and so to have gone clear of the schooner.

The defence of the owners of the George denied hat the accident was occasioned by neglect or a want f a good look-out on the part of the crew of the George, but was mainly attributable to the intense larkness of the night. That in pursuance of the revisions of the statute 47 Geo. III. c. 33, s. 9, intituled "An Act for establishing the Rates of Whar-fge, Anchorage, Moorage, &c. at the lawful Quays in he Port of Bristol, and for the better Regulation of Pilots and Pilotage navigating the Bristol Channel," he master of the George, on reaching Lundy Island on the morning of the 11th, endeavoured to procure a pilot ; and that immediately upon J. B., a duly licensed pilot, coming on board, he put his vessel under the charge and command of such pilot ; and that

1845.
12th June.
THE
GEORGE.

1845.
12th June.

THE
GEORGE.

the said ship, at the time of the collision, was in the entire charge and command of such pilot; and that all his directions were promptly and efficiently obeyed by the crew. That by reason of the premises, if the collision had not been accidental, which it was alleged to be, it was occasioned by the misdirection of the pilot; and that the owners of the said ship were not responsible.

The Court was assisted by Trinity Masters, and the case was argued on the 3rd and 6th instant by

Addams and Jenner, on behalf of the *Nora Creina*.

Queen's Advocate, Robinson and Bayford for the *George*.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington*.

When this case was argued at the bar, I was attended by two of the Elder Brethren of the Trinity Board; and entertaining a strong impression on my own mind, that a previous error had been committed by the *George* in proceeding as she did into the King's Road, I put it distinctly to those gentlemen to consider whether, looking to the state of the wind and weather, the *George* ought not to have brought up sometime previously and waited until the following morning, or that, if that measure was impracticable, to have slackened her course and proceeded up the channel with the tide.

The Trinity Masters, having duly and carefully considered these questions, are of opinion, that an error was committed by the *George* in not bringing up as suggested. At the same time they state that it is entirely within the province of the pilot to direct the time and place in which a vessel should be

rought up, and that the master must be governed upon these points exclusively by the judgment and direction of such pilot. The opinion thus expressed by the gentlemen of the Trinity House is *prima facie* an exoneration of the owners in point of law from all responsibility for the damage occasioned in this case by the want of judgment in the pilot. Another important point in the case, however, remains to be noticed, a point upon which I confess I felt no little difficulty upon the last court day,—I mean whether, considering the darkness of the night and the tempestuous state of the weather, a good and sufficient look-out was kept on board the George, just prior to the period when she reached the Nora Creina.

Now, in order to deprive the owners of the George of their legal exemption from liability under the statute, upon the ground of a want of a good look-out, there must undoubtedly be full and convincing proof that there was an actual neglect and want of care in this respect on the part of the master and crew of that vessel. The mind of the Court must be legally and conclusively satisfied of such neglect; and if the evidence be contradictory and at all evenly balanced, it would be impossible for the Court to decide affirmatively, so as to saddle the owners of the George with the consequences of this unfortunate collision.

Looking to the depositions in the cause, there is, I must say, much conflicting evidence, both as regards the degree of darkness that prevailed at the time and the period when the two vessels were seen from each other. In the evidence of the George the night is described by some of the witnesses as "awfully dark," and the collision is stated to have been instantaneous and inevitable. On the other side it is affirmed by some of the witnesses of the Nora Creina, that upon the night

1845.
12th June.

The
George.

1845.
12th June.

The
George.

in question ships were visible at three or four cables distance ; and the mate of the vessel expressly swears, that, after the time when the George was first seen, and before the collision ensued, he called up the master, who was below, and that he thereupon came on deck, and loosening the tiller, which had been fastened to keep it steady, put it hard astarboard into a rope becket, and then went forward.

When the case was argued I was certainly much struck with the evidence of the mate upon this part of the case, and upon this consideration, viz. that if the persons on board the Nora Creina had perceived the approach of the George at any considerable distance, it would furnish a fair presumption that the George, if she had kept a good look-out, might also have descried the Nora Creina. To this point in the case, therefore, I particularly invited the attention of the gentlemen of the Trinity House, with a view of ascertaining what length of time must have been occupied in carrying out the measures so adopted by the Nora Creina. It is the opinion of those gentlemen, that these measures would have occupied but a very short space of time ; and it is also to be here remembered, that in the protest of the Nora Creina it is distinctly stated, that between the first approach of the George and the collision an interval only of about two minutes elapsed. Under all the circumstances of the case, considering that the evidence on both sides is more evenly balanced than usually happens, I must pronounce that the George is not liable for the consequences of this collision, and that the owners of that vessel must consequently be dismissed. I shall, however, decline to accompany my sentence with any order as to costs : I can give no costs.

THE LORD SEATON. FITZSIMONS.

1845.
12th June.

THE question in this case was as to the admissibility of certain articles in a libel in a cause of damage by collision.

The three first articles of the libel pleaded generally the circumstances under which the collision took place, and were not opposed.

The fourth article pleaded, that immediately after the collision, in the next preceding article pleaded, and when on board the said ship, John Scott, a duly licensed pilot of the port of Liverpool, the pilot in charge of the Lord Seaton, observed to the said Thomas White, that the collision was not his, Scott's, fault, for he had told the man at the wheel to keep the ship away, and give the brig a berth. That the said John Scott, then in the presence of the said Thomas White, asked the man at the wheel what orders he had given him, and he answered that his orders were to keep the ship away, but he had misunderstood them, and luffed, or to that effect; and this was, &c.

The fifth article pleaded, that after the arrival of the said ship, Lord Seaton, in the port of Liverpool, in consequence of the said Thomas White and John Scott, the pilots respectively in charge of the said vessels, as before pleaded, being duly licensed pilots of the port of Liverpool, a meeting of the Pilot Committee of the said port was held on Monday the 1st day of April aforesaid, at the Pilot Office in Liverpool aforesaid, for the purpose of investigating the conduct of the said pilots respectively. That J. J. L., the French Consul at Liverpool, A. L., and A. D., the mate of the said brig, A., one of the

Declaration of the pilot in charge of a vessel proceeded against in a cause of damage, that the collision was not his fault, but was occasioned by the neglect of the crew of the damaging vessel, not pleadable in a cause by plea and proof.

Declaration of a mariner belonging to the damaging vessel, confirming the pilot's assertion, also inadmissible.

Investigation into the alleged misconduct of the pilot before a Pilot Committee of the port of Liverpool; decision of such committee, that the pilot was not to blame, not receivable as evidence in the cause.

1845.
12th June.

**THE
LORD SEATON.**

consignees of the Lord Seaton, and the said Thomas White and John Scott, attended such inquiry, and that the said pilots were examined by the said committee. That the master of the Lord Seaton was also summoned to attend the said inquiry, but refused to appear before the said committee, to be examined as to the cause of the said collision. That after such inquiry had been concluded, a resolution was passed by the said committee, that no blame attached to the said pilots, or to the people on board the said brig ; and this was, &c.

The admission of these two articles was opposed.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

The learned judge having adverted to the contents of the three first articles of the libel, observed to the following effect :—With respect to the first part of the fourth article of this libel, I am of opinion, that it is altogether inadmissible, and for this reason, that it does not refer to any of the facts which occurred at the time of the collision, but relates to a conversation which is stated to have taken place between the pilot of the vessel which is charged with the damage, and the pilot of the vessel which has been run down; it amounts, in point of fact, to a mere simple declaration on the part of the pilot not on oath ; and the declaration of such pilot, it appears to me, cannot be received as evidence, inasmuch that the owners of the Lord Seaton, having compulsorily taken the pilot on board, are exempt from the responsibility, and the pilot himself is amenable for the consequences of the collision in question.

The latter part of the article is, I think, equally inadmissible, as being the mere declaration of a seaman on board the Lord Seaton, which it is sought

take evidence against the owners of that vessel. I am not aware of any case in which the declaration of a common mariner has been received as evidence against the owner of the ship. The only principle upon which such declarations are received, is, I apprehend, confined to cases where the party making the declaration is the agent of the owners. This principle, though clear, does not apply in the present instance, and for this reason I am of opinion that the whole of this article is inadmissible.

I am the more strongly inclined to this opinion, on the consideration that the exclusion of this article will entail no prejudice upon the case of the owners of the Marie Therese.

If the owners of the Lord Seaton produce this mariner as a witness, the question may be put to him on interrogatory, and if he denies it, an allegation adverse to his credit may be given in upon such his trial. On the other hand, if the owners of the Lord Seaton do not produce him, it will furnish a strong presumption that he did act as stated.

The fifth article pleads, that there is a pilot committee at Liverpool, charged with the general investigation into the conduct of all pilots, whether they are right or wrong. I have no hesitation in saying that there is no principle whatever upon which the decision of such a committee can be received as evidence in a case of this description. The investigation of such committee is a mere *ex parte* investigation, made for totally different purposes. Whether they take evidence on oath I do not know; how the investigation is conducted I cannot tell; but of this I am certain, that the decision of such a committee cannot, upon any principle, be received as evidence

1845.
12th June.

THE
LORD SEATON.

1845.
12th June.

in the cause, and I must, therefore, direct that this article should be struck out.

THE
LORD SEATON.



THE WESTMORELAND. RENDALL.

24th June.

MOTION.

Not competent
for magistrates
to levy dis-
tresses upon a
vessel in the
custody of the
Court of Admi-
ralty at the suit
of seamen for
their wages,
under the stat.
7 & 8 Vict.
c. 112.

Monition de-
creed against
an auctioneer
who had acted
upon the ma-
gistrates' war-
rants, and had
removed part
of the tackle
and furniture of
the ship.

IN this case the vessel had been arrested in a cause of bottomry upon the 3rd of May, 1845. Upon the 3rd of June, the third default was prayed, and upon the same day, R. T., an auctioneer, acting under warrants issued by the magistrates of South Shields, proceeded to levy distresses upon the vessel for seamen's wages, and advertised the tackle, apparel, &c. for sale on the 5th. Upon the 7th of June, the case was brought to the notice of the Court, and a notice was directed to be given to R. T. not to remove, or if removed to restore, the ship's furniture, and under pain of an attachment. The tackle, &c. of the vessel having been sold upon the 5th of June, and carried away, a monition was now prayed against R. T. to show cause why he should not be attached for contempt of Court.

Per Curiam.

I have no hesitation in granting this motion; at the same time I wish that the application had been made to the Court at an earlier stage of the proceedings.

The vessel, it appears, was arrested upon the 3rd of May in a cause of bottomry; and subsequent to the arrest, and whilst the ship was in the custody of this Court, nine several distresses were levied upon her by certain magistrates of South Shields, at the suit of the seamen for their wages. It further appears,

that after the distresses had been levied and before the 5th of June, the tackle, apparel and furniture of the vessel were taken out and removed; and upon the 5th of June they were sold at a public auction by R. T., an auctioneer of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Now, I know not whether at the time these distresses were levied the magistrates were or were not in ignorance of the proceedings which had already been commenced against the ship under the authority of this Court. I have, however, no hesitation in asserting that the statute 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112, could give them no jurisdiction whatever to interfere under the circumstances of the case. How can the proceeds of a ship be brought into the Registry of this Court to be dealt with according to law, if another jurisdiction can thus incidentally take the vessel out of the hands of the Court. The act of parliament never intended any such construction of the 15th section; and I wish it to be understood, that if in future cases of this kind any similar attempt be made to infringe upon the authority of this Court, I will, upon due notice being given to the Court, most assuredly attach the parties by whom such interference is attempted. I decree a perishable monition to issue, and also a monition to show cause why an attachment should not be issued against the auctioneer by whom the ship's furniture was removed; and in so doing I repeat my regret that earlier measures were not adopted. It is the duty of persons who are in possession of a ship under the authority of this Court to give the earliest intimation to the Court if any attempt be made to infringe that authority.

Motion granted.

Upon the 5th July affidavits were brought in on

1846.
24th June.
THE WEST-MORELAND.

1845.
24th June.

THE WEST-MORELAND.

behalf of R. T., stating his readiness to reinstate the property which had been taken out of the vessel and sold, but praying further time for that purpose; and upon 3rd September it was admitted in acts of Court, that the order of the Court had been complied with, whereupon R. T. was dismissed, but condemned in the costs of the proceeding.

24th May.

A written agreement to stay by a vessel in distress and see her safe into port for the sum of £500, signed by the masters of the two vessels, upheld by the Court.

Plea of the salvors, that the agreement was conditional, and signed upon the understanding that the service was not to extend beyond the following morning, overruled.

THE REPULSE. MARQUIS.

IN this case the Repulse having been much damaged by stress of weather on her homeward voyage from India, the master, when about 85 miles from Algoa Bay, entered into a written agreement with the commander of the Prince of Waterloo to stay by and assist the Repulse into Algoa Bay. The agreement was to the following effect:—

“ Ship Repulse, off Algoa Bay, 20 June, 1844.

“ I agree on the part of the owner and underwriters of the ship Repulse of London with Captain Elder, commander of the bark Prince of Waterloo of Aberdeen, that he or his owners receive the sum of £500 for remaining by the ship Repulse, seeing her safe, and rendering all and every assistance into port.”

On the part of the Prince of Waterloo a counter-agreement was signed by Captain Elder, the master, in these words:—

“ Ship Repulse, off Algoa Bay, 20 June, 1844.

“ I agree to remain by the ship Repulse, see her safe, and render her every assistance into port, for which I have made the arrangements with Captain Marquis, commander of the above ship.”

Upon the return of the Repulse to this country a
it for salvage was commenced by the owner, master
d crew of the Prince of Waterloo. The action
is entered by the alleged salvors in the sum of
1000; and in reference to the agreement it was
eaded, that the acceptance by Captain Elder was
ly a conditional acceptance of the terms specified
the agreement, Captain E. having signed the same
on the understanding that the ship would get into
goa Bay upon the following morning. That after
e agreement had been executed, Captain E. said to
captain M. " Now mind, if we don't get into Algoa
ay in the morning, this agreement is to be void,
d I shall look for something else," to which Cap-
in M. assented.

This statement was contradicted in the answer to
e act; and a tender of £500, the amount of the
iginal agreement, was made in acts of Court.

1845.
24th May.

THE
REPULSE.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

The learned judge having adverted to the facts,
d to the alleged agreement, observed,—There are
o ways, and two ways only, by which contracts of
is description can be annulled. The first is by
oving that the contract was founded in fraud and
isrepresentation, in which case it would be void ab
itio; the second, by showing that it was cancelled
mutual consent. Neither of these points are estab-
ished in the present instance. If this be so, I have
ly to consider this agreement according to the prin-
ples of construction which prevail in this and other
courts. The very object of all written contracts is
prevent uncertainty and confusion, and to avoid
at failure of memory which is incidental to all hu-
an transactions: if the rules by which these con-

1845.
24th May.

THE
REPULSE.

tracts should be construed are relaxed, all the evil consequences which they were intended to prevent will be produced. Looking then to the terms in which the agreement is drawn up, its obvious meaning and intent is, that Captain Elder should stay by the Repulse, and see her safe into Algoa Bay, for the sum of £500. This is stated clearly and without limitation. But it is said on the part of the salvors, that it was intended by Captain Elder as a mere conditional agreement; and a conversation is stated to have taken place, after the contract was signed, in which Captain Elder told Captain Marquis if they did not get into Algoa Bay on the following morning the agreement was to be void. If this was the intention of Captain Elder that the detention was to be for one night only, why was not the stipulation introduced into the contract? Was it not within the power of Captain Elder to have said, "This contract I will not sign unless this condition be expressed in it?" I am of opinion that no circumstances are alleged which are sufficient to vitiate this agreement; and I am therefore bound to pronounce for the tender of £500, but I do not think it a case in which I should give costs.

24th June.

THE REPULSE. MARQUIS.

Privilege of
masters to sue
for their wages,
under stat. 7 & 8
Vict., confined
to two cases.

1st. Where
the wages are
claimed to be
due from a party
who was owner
of the ship at
the time of the
original con-
tract.

IN this case an action was entered against the same vessel by Captain Marquis, the master, to recover the sum of £1800, due to him for his wages. The action was brought under the provisions of the act 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112, the original owners of the vessel having become bankrupts. The grounds upon which the master's claim was resisted are fully noticed and discussed by the learned judge in delivering his judgment.

The case was argued by

Haggard and R. Phillimore for the present owners.

Addams for the master.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

I must first direct my attention to the true construction of the act of parliament upon which this is brought, an act which has conferred a great privilege upon the masters of merchant vessels extending to them the same liens and remedies in regard to the recovery of their wages which heretofore belonged to the seamen and mariners alone.

The act in question is, in some respects, necessarily retrospective in its effect, inasmuch as it applies to contracts made between masters and owners antecedent to the passing of the act. Again, as relates to mortgagees and bottomry bondholders who might have liens upon a ship at the time the statute was passed, it puts the master (in the case specified in the act) upon the same footing as an ordinary mariner, thereby conferring upon him a priority of claim for the payment of his wages. It is no part of my duty to examine whether or not these consequences were duly considered by the legislature at the time the statute was enacted. I must take the act as it is, and put a legal construction upon it. Let me then consider what are the cases specified in which a master is entitled to the privilege. The act provides, "that all the rights, liens, privileges and remedies (save such remedies as are against a master himself), which by this act, or any law, statute, custom, or usage, belong to any seaman or mariner in respect to the recovery of his wages, shall, in the case

1845.
24th June.

THE
REPULSE.
2nd. Where
such owner is
bankrupt or in-
solvent at the
time when the
claim is pre-
ferred.

Master of a
vessel not de-
barred from
suing under the
act, upon the
ground that he
was a joint
mortgagee of
the ship, and
that he was
cognizant of the
sale of the vessel
by the other
mortgagee and
did not dissent
from such sale.

1845.
24th June.

THE
REPUBLIC.

of the bankruptcy or insolvency of the owner of the ship, also belong and be extended to masters of ships or master mariners in respect to the recovery of wages due to them from the owner of any ship belonging to any of her majesty's subjects." From these words it appears that the privilege of the master is confined to two cases,—first, where the wages are claimed to be due from a party who was the owner of the ship at the time of the original contract; secondly, where such owner is a bankrupt or insolvent at the time when the claim is preferred. I am aware that cases may possibly arise upon the construction of this act which may be attended with great difficulty and complexity; as, for instance, in the case of the death of the owner, or the sale and transfer of the vessel during the progress of a voyage. In the latter case, it is obvious that the purchaser could not be considered as a party to the original contract; and it would be difficult to determine whether the contract was extinguished altogether, or whether an action would only lie for services had and performed. The present case is attended with no such difficulties; and I am clearly of opinion that the insolvency of the former owners of this ship in the present instance, is the insolvency contemplated by the act, and that it gives to Captain Marquis *prima facie* a remedy for his wages against the ship, unless his claim is defeated by any of the circumstances stated in the proceedings. In the act on petition and in the affidavit of Captain Shuttleworth it is averred, that by the arrangement between Captains Marquis and Shuttleworth prior to the sailing of the vessel, Captain M. became in point of fact, if not in law, a joint mortgagee of the ship; it is also further stated, that upon the return of the vessel to England, Captain Marquis was indebted to the owners

upon the balance of his accounts. With respect to these averments, I am of opinion, that the mere circumstance, however distinctly proved, that Captain M. was a joint mortgagee with Captain S., can have no legal effect in barring his claim for wages in the present proceedings; at the same time, I have yet to learn that a master will be entitled to recover his entire wages in a suit in this Court, if, upon a balance of his accounts, he is indebted to the owners. His claim must stand upon the same footing as the case of an ordinary mariner or seaman, where the wages are pronounced for subject to all deductions for monies received, or clothes, or other advances fairly and bona fide made. Whatever therefore may be my ultimate decision in this case, it will be competent for Captain S. to appear in Court and have any of his claims investigated before the registrar and merchants, and no money will be paid out of the Registry to Captain Marquis that shall not be found due upon a settlement of the accounts. It is not for a moment to be supposed that this Court will ever suffer itself to be made the instrument to do an act of positive injustice, and such injustice it would commit if it were to give to Captain M. the whole of his wages, and thereby enable him to set the owners at defiance in respect to what is due from him on a settlement of accounts.

I now come to another averment in opposition to the claim of Captain Marquis, which is deserving of very grave consideration, viz. the averment that the ultimate sale of the vessel to Mr. Beach was made with the privity, sanction and concurrence of Captain Marquis. This part of the case was much argued by the learned counsel at the bar; and it was strongly urged upon the Court, that in so consenting to the

1845.
24th June.

THE
REPULSE.

1845.
24th June.

THE
REPUBLIC.

sale of the ship, Captain M. has waived his lien upon her, and by his own conduct has lost his privilege of suing against the vessel under the provisions of the recent statute. In support of this argument two cases were cited by the learned counsel; and I will now proceed to dispose of these cases, neither of which in my judgment has any bearing upon the point in issue. In the case of *Jacobs v. Latour*, reported in 5 Bing. 131, the principle laid down by the Court of Common Pleas was this, that where a stable-keeper has the possession of a horse, he has a lien upon that horse for the expenses of its keep so long as he retains it; but if he gives up the possession of that horse, his lien is gone. This position is perfectly true, and the same principle would apply to a ship in dock: so long as the owner of the dock retains possession of the ship, he has a lien upon her for dock expenses incurred; but if he permits the vessel to leave the dock, his lien upon her is gone. Various other cases might be cited to the same effect; but the question is, does this principle apply to the present case? I apprehend not; and for this reason, that Captain M. had no possession of any lien upon this vessel in the legal acceptation of the term. In the case of *Govett v. Richmond*, reported in 7 Sim. R., the principle laid down was to this effect,—where a person, having a claim upon property which is the subject of a reference, knows that the arbitration is going on, but does not bring forward his claim, he will be bound by the award. In the present case there was no legal proceeding to transfer the title to this vessel, and it was merely a private transaction between Captain Shuttleworth and Mr. Beach.

Having thus disposed of these cases, I will in conclusion examine with some particularity the circum-

stances under which it is alleged that the sale in question took place. The vessel, it appears, arrived in this country in January last, and at the end of that month the sale took place. Mr. Heavyside swears in his affidavit, that the question of selling the ship was discussed in a meeting at which Captain M. was present, and that Captain M. was consulted, and fully authorized the sale of the ship. He further swears, and in this he is confirmed by Mr. Turner, that immediately after the meeting he made an entry in his journal to this effect, "Captain M., in the presence of Mr. Turner and myself, agreed that Captain S. was to sell the Repulse for £6000." Now, I have no hesitation in giving to these gentlemen entire credit for an intention to speak the truth. I feel however this difficulty with respect to the reception of their evidence as it is thus given in their affidavit, viz. that it conveys only the impressions of their own opinion of the result of the conversation, and not the materials from which this opinion is drawn. This is one of the difficulties with respect to this part of the case; and I feel that, sitting as a judge in a court of justice, I am not at liberty to rely with safety and satisfaction upon such evidence. On the other hand, Captain M. gives a long and detailed account of what took place on the occasion in question. He states that Captain S. observed, "I am offered £6000 for the ship, and I don't think I shall get more. Do you think I ought to take it?" That he Captain M. replied, "You are the best judge; you can do as you like." Upon which Captain S. said, "I think I shall close;" and defendant said, "You know best." That he, Captain M., then left, and Captain S. subsequently informed him he had sold the vessel for £100 more. He further states, that he had no reason to believe at the time

1845.
24th June.
THE
REPULSE.

1845.
24th June.

THE
REPULSE.

that any opposition would be made to the payment of his wages; and that he acted under the impression that Captain S. had full power to effect the sale, and that his sanction and assent was not necessary and was not applied for. The result of Captain M.'s statement, then, is this, that he was cognizant of the intended sale of the vessel, and that he did not dissent from it. The question arises, does this his non-dissent, if I may use the expression—in other words, this tacit assent or abstaining from dissent on his part, bar him from his right to sue the present owners? I apprehend not; and for this simple reason, that he had no legal power of assent at all, and that his consent was in no degree necessary to complete the sale. Upon the whole view of the case, therefore, I am of opinion that Captain M. is legally entitled to proceed in this suit; at the same time it must be distinctly understood, that he will not recover from the hands of the Court one sixpence more than he is entitled to upon a fair settlement of accounts.

LA CONSTANCIA.

MOTION.

14th November.

Where a bondholder advances his money upon the security of the ship alone, it is not competent for him to extend that security beyond the express terms of the bottomry bond.

Three bonds of bottomry granted upon

IN this case three bonds of bottomry were granted upon this ship.

The first bond was executed upon the 27th of February, 1845, and hypothecated the ship only; the second bond, bearing the same date, hypothecated the cargo only; and the third bond, dated the 9th of April, was upon the ship alone. The validity of the several bonds was not disputed, and the ship having been sold under a decree of the Court, the

question arose as to the funds out of which the several bonds should be paid.

1845.
14th November.

**LA
CONTRANCIA.**

the same vessel ;
two of the bonds
granted upon
the ship alone,
the third bond
upon the cargo
only.

In marshal-
ling the assets,
the Court di-
rected the two
bonds upon the
ship to be paid
out of the pro-
ceeds of the ship
exclusively ; the
bond upon the
cargo to be paid
out of the pro-
ceeds of the
freight in the
first instance,
and the cargo
only held liable
if the proceeds
of the freight
should be in-
sufficient.

JUDGMENT.—Dr. Lushington.

The validity of these bonds is not disputed, and the question which I have to determine is confined to the consideration of the funds out of which the several bonds are to be defrayed. The vessel, it appears, was bound on a voyage from Lima to London with a cargo of silver and guano, and having met with damage at sea was compelled to put into Bahia to refit. The silver on board was applied in the first instance in payment of the repairs; but not being sufficient to cover the whole of the expenses, the master was obliged to take up money on bottomry, for which he executed a bond bearing date the 27th of February, 1845, and which bond is upon the ship alone. Subsequent to the departure of the vessel from Bahia, she met with a collision, and was compelled to return to that port for further repairs. For the payment of these repairs further advances of money were required by the master, and a second bond of bottomry was executed by him upon the cargo only. A third bond was also given, dated the 9th of April, 1845, and this bond purports to hypothecate the ship, without any reference to the freight or the cargo on board.

Now, with respect to these bonds, I am of opinion, that the bond of the 9th of April, being the last in point of date, is entitled to the priority of payment, and that the payment thereof must be defrayed exclusively out of the proceeds of the ship. I conceive also that the original bond of the 27th of February must likewise be defrayed out of the same proceeds; and if these proceeds should prove insufficient to cover the two bonds, the loss must fall upon the

1845.
14th November.

La
CONSTANCIA.

bondholders,—and for this obvious reason, viz. that they have themselves chosen to limit their security to the ship alone ; and there is no principle of law which will enable them to extend that security beyond the express terms in which the instrument of hypothecation is couched. With respect to the remaining bond, which is upon the cargo only, although in the present instance its validity is not contested, I can only pronounce that it is valid in point of law, upon the assumption that the hypothecation of the ship, freight and cargo were contemplated by the contracting parties when the bond was executed. The ship and freight undoubtedly form the primary resources for the discharge of all bottomry bonds, and the cargo is only liable when these resources are exhausted. This doctrine was laid down by Lord Stowell, in the case of the *Gratitudine*, and in deciding the present question I shall adhere to the authority of that decision.

If then the proceeds of this ship should be exhausted in the present instance in the payment of the two bonds of the 27th of February and the 9th of April, the intermediate bond, which is upon the cargo, must be satisfied in the first instance out of the proceeds of the freight; and when these are expended, the bondholder will be entitled to fall back upon the cargo. I make this decision upon the principle, that, where there are several bonds upon different securities, I am bound so to deal with the assets that one security should not be exhausted at the expense of the other, but that the claims of all the creditors, if possible, should be satisfied.

THE BATAVIER.

1845.
17th December.

his case the Batavier, a steam-vessel belonging to the Netherlands Steam Navigation Company, on her passage from London to Rotterdam, into collision in the river with the Topaz, an steamer belonging to the Gravesend Steam t Company. The Batavier was in charge of a licensed pilot, and the collision took place off send ; the Topaz being at the time anchored by le anchor, about 200 or 300 feet from the North sex shore. Two questions were raised : first, the general merits ; and, secondly, how far the s of the Batavier were liable for the damage ; pilot being taken on board by preference and compulsorily, and having been constantly em- d by the owners of the Batavier in piloting their s up and down the river for a period of fifteen

Where a vessel at anchor is run down by another vessel under weigh, the onus probandi lies with the vessel doing the damage, and she is bound to show that the accident was not occasioned by any fault or negligence on her part. The exemption from liability under the Pilot Act not taken away from the owners of the damaging vessel by the constant em- ployment of the same pilot to pilot their vessel up and down the river for a period of fifteen years.

UDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

gentlemen, I must first direct your attention to is the presumption of law when a vessel at r is run down by another vessel. I conceive it this,—that the vessel under weigh is bound to by clear and indisputable evidence, that the nt did not arise from any fault or negligence on art ; and for this obvious reason, that a vessel at anchor has no means of shifting her position or ng the collision. It is, I apprehend, the bounden of the vessel under weigh, whether the vessel at r be properly or improperly anchored, to avoid be possible, with safety to herself, any collision ever. This is not only the doctrine of the mari- law, but it is also the doctrine of the common

1845.
17th December.
THE
BATAVIER.

law with respect to carriages on the high road. Supposing a carriage be standing still, and be on the wrong side of the road, it would be no justification for another carriage, which might be on the right side of the road, to run into that carriage if the driver could avoid it without risk to himself. Bearing this principle in mind, let us now look to the general features of this case, and then consider who are the parties to blame in the present instance. It appears from the statements on both sides that the Topaz was anchored near to the north shore, and was lying between 200 and 300 feet from the shore. If this be so, the question arises, whether the course pursued by the Batavier in going to the N.E. was a fit and proper course to be pursued? This must depend upon various considerations; in the first place, whether in your opinion there was sufficient width and space to allow the Batavier to have gone in any other direction with safety. Another consideration is, whether there was sufficient breadth and depth of water to the S.W. to have enabled her to take that particular direction. The case which is set up on behalf of the Batavier is this: that in order to pass the Topaz to the east in the best water, there not being water enough to permit the Batavier to go either over the Whiting Shoal or to the west thereof, the pilot called to the man at the wheel to put the helm astarboard. If this statement be true, and you are of opinion that there was sufficient space and depth of water to the west to have enabled the Batavier to have taken that course with safety, the Batavier, I apprehend, had the option of an open course, without the necessity of running a risk of any collision whatever.

Under these circumstances, leaving you to fix the precise position of the Topaz, I shall request your

n upon the following points. In the first place, did the Batavier pursue a proper course in going to leeward of the Topaz? and, secondly, was the ship anchored in a proper place and in a proper manner? In considering the last point, you must recollect that the Topaz had been recently repaired and was just come out of dock, and that she was at anchor only for the purpose of getting up her steam and proceeding on her course. Was it then necessary as a matter of proper maritime precaution, that she should have had two anchors down? With respect to the averment, that just prior to the collision the helm of the Topaz was altered, I can find no evidence to substantiate the fact, and it is directly denied and contradicted in the evidence of the master, who says that the helm was kept hard a port.

gentlemen, there remains only one further point to which it is necessary that I should direct your attention and that is, whether in your opinion there was any neglect on the part of the master or any of the crew of the Batavier? Such neglect could only arise, in the present instance, either from the want of a proper look-out, or from an imperfect execution of orders given by the pilot. As regards the former, it must be borne in mind that both the master and the crew were upon the paddle-box at the time, and, as far as I can discover, there is no evidence whatever to sustain the master or any of the crew a failure in executing the pilot's directions.

The *Trinity Masters*, having considered the points submitted by the learned judge, were of opinion:—that the Batavier did not pursue a proper course in going to the N.E. of the Topaz, and that no blame ever was attributable to the Topaz, either in

1845.
17th December.
THE
BATAVIER.

1845.
17th December.

THE
BATAVIER.

respect to the place or the manner in which she was anchored. They were also of opinion, that there was no neglect on the part of the crew of the Batavier in not keeping a good look-out, or in not executing the orders of the pilot when such orders were given.

The Court having pronounced for the damage, a question was raised respecting the liability of the owners of the Batavier: and it was submitted by the counsel for the Topaz, that the provisions of the statute did not apply to exonerate them under the circumstances of the case, inasmuch that the pilot on board the Batavier had been in the constant employment of that vessel as pilot from the year 1830, and that he was taken on board, not compulsorily but voluntarily, in the present instance, and was consequently to be considered as the servant of the owners.

On behalf of the owners of the Batavier it was urged, that in order to deprive the owners of the benefit of the statute it must be shown that the pilot was exclusively their servant, and that the simple fact of the pilot having always, with two exceptions, conducted the vessel to and from Gravesend, created no difference in the law of the case. Under the Pilot Act the owners were bound to take a pilot on board, and as this person was well acquainted with the master and crew of the Batavier, it was natural that the master would prefer having him to any other pilot. It was as preposterous to urge this preference as a bar to the owner's privilege under the statute, as it would be to contend that a soldier, who had liberty to choose which of six drummers should flog him, in making the selection proved that the receiving of the flogging was voluntary.

Per Curiam.

The Trinity Masters and myself being of opinion that the collision was occasioned by the default of the pilot, I have now to determine whether the particular circumstances of this case take away from the owners their exemption from responsibility under the provisions of the Pilot Act. The first ingredient to bring the case within the act is, that the damage was occasioned exclusively by the fault of the pilot. This is established in the present instance. The next ingredient to exonerate the owners is, that the pilot arrived on board should be a duly licensed pilot. In the present case this requisite of the law also is satisfied, because it is admitted that the pilot was duly licensed; and if he had been accidentally picked up in the port of London and took charge of the vessel the owners would be exonerated. It is alleged however that this pilot has been constantly engaged and employed in the service of the vessel as pilot, from the year 1830 up to the present period; and that on this account he is to be considered rather as a servant voluntarily engaged by the owners, than as an ordinary pilot taken under the compulsory provisions of the statute. I confess that I am altogether unable to accede to the force and propriety of his argument. The great object of the legislature was to ensure duly licensed pilots being placed on board all vessels of a certain tonnage navigating the rivers and ports of this country. There is no restrictive enactment to prevent any individual duly qualified from accepting an undertaking a constant and permanent engagement. I am well aware, that, when a vessel is at sea and a pilot puts off, there is a compulsion upon the master to receive such pilot, if he be the first that presents himself; but I have yet to learn that when vessels are

1845.
17th December.

THE
BATAVIAN.

1846.
17th December.

**THE
BATAVIER.**

lying in port and about to sail, the master and owners have no right to select their own pilot, provided he be properly qualified, to conduct the vessel. It would, I conceive, be highly detrimental to the interests of navigation if such a position could be maintained. On the contrary, I consider it highly advantageous, not only to the owners of vessels but to the public at large, that the same pilot should be constantly employed on board a vessel, inasmuch as he becomes thereby well acquainted with the master and crew, and is consequently more likely to conduct the vessel amicably and properly. Under the circumstances of the case then I am of opinion, that the owners of the Batavier are clearly exonerated in the present instance, and I must dismiss them accordingly.

Dr. Curteis.—With costs?

Per Curiam.—No. If you had admitted the facts and rested your defence upon the Pilot Act I should have given you your costs; but as you have put in controversy a variety of facts, which have been proved against you, you are not entitled to costs.

1846.
13th January.

Advances made
for the service
of a ship, to
pay debts bona
fide incurred
previous to the
advances, may
be legally in-
cluded in a
bond of bot-
tomry.

The general
validity of a
bond will not
be vitiated by

THE HEBE. HAMPTON.

THIS was a question as to the validity of a bottomry bond executed by the master at Sydney in New South Wales. The various pleadings in the cause were discussed by the Court at considerable length upon the admission of a rejoinder. (Vide *suprà*, vol. ii. pt. 1, p. 147.)

The case was now argued upon its merits by

Haggard and *Harding* for the bondholder.

Addams and Robinson for the owner.

1846.
13th January.

The grounds upon which the validity of the bond is contested are noticed seriatim in the judgment of the Court.

To the Hon. the fact that the lender of the money was himself partially indebted to the ship at the time he lent the money, the bond will be invalidated pro tanto only; and the amount of the deductions must be ascertained by reference to the Registrar and merchants.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

It appears that the proceedings in this case were commenced as far back as the month of August, 1841; but the delay which has occurred is sufficiently explained by the fact, that the bond was executed at Sydney in New South Wales, and all the material evidence in the cause has of necessity been supplied from that distant country. From the arguments which have been addressed to the Court, I collect that the opposition to the validity of the bond is based upon three grounds. The first objection is, that all or the greater part of the advances for which the bond was given, were for the liquidation of debts incurred previous to the time when such advances were made. Assuming the fact to be so, the question arises, is it fatal to the validity of a bond of bottomry that the whole or a considerable part of the money advanced is to be applied to the payment of debts already incurred, that is to say, provided such debts be bona fide incurred for the necessary disbursements of the ship? My own experience in this Court supplies me with no principle or authority to support such effect. On the contrary, looking to the practice of the Court in former questions of this description, I apprehend that it is a matter of every day occurrence in this class of cases, that money is advanced on bottomry in part at least for the payment of debts already incurred. It would, I conceive, be nugatory to all principles of justice and equity to

1846.
13th January.
THE HALL.

prohibit the lending of money on bottomry for the payment of such debts, leaving the creditor at Sydney or elsewhere to follow the master or owner to England for his money. It would also, it seems to me, be most highly detrimental to the interest of the shipowners themselves if any such rule prevailed, inasmuch that they would be obliged to furnish credit at every port into which the ship might enter: for who would trust the master alone? Again, would such a rule tend to advance the completion of voyages of this very description? I think not; and for this reason, that, if the ship could not be arrested, the master might in all ordinary cases, if not in this particular case, be detained,—and how is the ship to proceed without him? As regards the owners of the vessel, they would surely have no reason to complain, because the debts to be paid must be the proper and just debts of the ship for which they ought to have provided. If they neglect to do so, or the master abuses his trust, who is to suffer? Not the innocent creditor, but the principal for the acts of his agent. In order to satisfy my own mind, I have attentively examined the various cases of bottomry to be found collected in the Reports; and I feel that I am supported in this view of the matter by the decisions which have been heretofore delivered in this Court.

The whole of the argument upon this part of the case seems to have been founded upon a misapprehension of the principle so often adverted to in cases of this kind, that if a person advances money, or undertakes repairs, or furnishes necessaries to a vessel upon the personal security of the owners, he shall not be at liberty, by taking a subsequent bond from the master, to convert that security into a bottomry security. To this doctrine, as a position of law long es-
tablished,

ied and recognized in the practice of this Court, I
tirely accede. At the same time I would observe,
the principle upon which this doctrine is founded
no application to the present case. The principle
which such doctrine is founded is this, that no
shall be at liberty to alter a contract into which
has already entered, without the consent of the
r contracting party, and to his prejudice. He
chosen his security, and by that he must abide.
it common law a creditor is precluded from alter-
a simple contract debt into a bond debt by his
act and deed, upon the same reason a person
advances money for the service of a ship upon
onal security in the first instance, cannot, ex mero
u, although with the concurrence of the master,
vert the transaction into a bottomry transaction.
y other distinctions might be pointed out between
two cases; but I do not think it necessary to dwell
er upon this part of the case: the point does not
erly arise in this stage of the proceedings; it
ht rather to have been mooted as matter of objec-
to the report of the Registrar and merchants. I
, however, thought it right to deliver my opinion
it because it was contested at the bar; and I
e no hesitation in saying, that if the fact was most
established, it would not affect the general vali-
of the bond in issue: the utmost limit, to which
objection could extend, would be the possible dis-
wance of some specific items in the bond.

now come to a second objection against this bond,
ch is set forth in the rejoinder in these words,—
eacon further expressly denies that R. G. Dunlop
not in any manner indebted to the brig or her
ers at or for some time prior to his pretended ad-
ces on bottomry on account of the brig; on the

1846.
13th January.
THE HIRE.

1846.
13th January.

THE HEBE.

contrary, he was at such times indebted to the brig or her owners."

Looking to the terms in which this averment is worded, I must say that I feel some little difficulty in ascertaining the real purport and intention for which it is made. It is abundantly clear that Dunlop was, at a time anterior to the advance of the money, indebted to the ship. He was the person who chartered her on her last voyage, and was indebted in the balance of the freight upon the completion of that voyage. The question, however, is not whether he was in debt anterior to the taking of the bottomry bond, but whether he was in debt at the time when the money was advanced. If he were in debt some short time previously, and had discharged that debt before the advance on bottomry was made, the averment is altogether immaterial. If it be meant that he was in debt to the ship when he advanced the money, to the extent of the money advanced, the fact is of great importance, because no man can advance money on bottomry who is so indebted at the time.

In order to elucidate this part of the case, which is thus obscurely alleged, and which ought to have been stated with the utmost precision, a large mass of accounts have been brought in; but I do not think it necessary to go through these accounts in detail: it is sufficient to say, that neither the accounts nor the evidence satisfy my mind that Dunlop was a debtor to the ship or her owners to the amount of the money which has been advanced upon this bond. Whether he was at all indebted, and to what extent, it is unnecessary for me to decide upon the present occasion; and for this reason, that if he was in debt to the ship at the time of the advance, but not to the amount advanced, the consequence would be that the bond would be invalid pro tanto only; and the proper tri-

bunal to investigate that question in the present instance is before the registrar and merchants by whom the necessary deductions must be made. The third and last objection refers to the conduct of Mr. Dunlop in paying over certain freight money to Malcolm, the master, notwithstanding the express direction to the contrary by Mr. Turcan, a brother of one of the owners.

In support of this averment an affidavit has been sworn by Mr. Turcan, in which he states that he represented to Mr. Dunlop that the owners were desirous the brig should be sent home to England; and that he cautioned Messrs. D. & Co. to see that the freight of the brig was properly applied for the benefit of the vessel, or remitted to the owners. Assuming the fact to be as stated, the question arises, could Dunlop on such a warning have legally withheld the money from Malcolm, then in command of the vessel? With whom was the contract which Dunlop had entered into?—The only existing contract was between Dunlop and Malcolm. Who was Malcolm? Was he not the master still in command, and employed in such a course of navigation as empowered him to let the vessel on freight? Can any person doubt that an action might have been brought at Sydney at the suit of Malcolm to recover from Dunlop the freight that was due? What would be the defence? what could Dunlop plead?—Not that the freight was not due, but that he had been told by a brother of one of the owners to withhold it, there being no evidence to show that Mr. Turcan had any authority from the owners for the purpose. I cannot conceive that such a defence, even if capable of being put into a legal shape, could have availed in a court of law; and it is not my business to inquire whether a court of equity

^{1846.}
13th January.
THE HEEB.

1846.
13th January.
THE HEBE.

would have interfered. Mr. Dunlop in my opinion was perfectly justified in not involving himself in the risk of any such proceeding. As regards the alleged payment of the freight money to the master, therefore, I see no ground whatever for sustaining the charge of collusion against him—a charge which has been rather insinuated in the argument than distinctly averred in the pleadings. Even assuming that the money was paid inadvertently and improperly, I do not consider that such a payment could affect the validity of a bottomry bond subsequently taken, unless the payment was so connected with the bond as to make the whole transaction a fraudulent transaction.

Before I conclude my observations I will advert very briefly to the evidence which has been adduced on the one side and on the other, with respect to the necessity of the alleged advances, and the mode in which they are stated to have been made. On the part of the bondholder's case there is, in the first place, the affidavit of Mr. Dunlop, in which he swears that, having observed an advertisement in the public journals of the 17th, 19th and 21st of October, requiring advances on bottomry for the service of the brig Hebe, he wrote to Messrs. Brown & Co., the advertisers, on behalf of his firm, tendering their assistance at 20 per cent. premium, provided the brig would proceed to Manilla, or some other port where she might procure a cargo for England. That a reply was received from Messrs. Brown & Co. accepting the offer; and that advances were accordingly made. This transaction, it is to be noticed, is entirely between Dunlop and the Messrs. Brown, who were at that time the constituted agents of the vessel under the power of attorney from Mr. Alexander, and there is

t the slightest suggestion that as between them and r. Dunlop any collusion whatever existed.

The next affidavit is the affidavit of Thomas Brown; d if this affidavit be credible, and I conceive it to so in every respect, it not only confirms the statement of Mr. Dunlop to which I have just adverted, t it establishes most conclusively a strong case of ccessity for the advance of money on bottomry. ie last affidavit to which I shall refer is the affidavit

Mr. Wilson, the clerk of Messrs. Dunlop & Co. his affidavit details at some length the various proceedings connected with the vessel, none of which ve any bearing upon the question immediately in sue. As regards the character and conduct of Mr. unlop it is, however, a highly important affidavit ; id, in justice to that gentleman, I think it right to y, that in my judgment it relieves him entirely from e heavy imputations which have been levelled gainst him in the course of these proceedings.

What is there on the other side in opposition to this idence ? There is an affidavit made by Hampton, e master,—which, in my view of it, in no degree ilitates against the validity of this bond, save as to e intended expenditure. There is also the affidavit Mr. Alexander, one of the part-owners, to which I ust advert somewhat in detail. The first observation would make upon it is, that of the facts which took ace at Sydney, Mr. Alexander did not, and could t, know any thing : and the facts at Sydney are e only important facts in the case. Again, with respect to the averment, that in the month of Februry, 1840, a power of attorney was sent out to Messrs. brown & Co. authorizing them to receive all freights, ad to eject Malcolm from the command, it is perctly clear, both from the correspondence annexed

1846.
13th January.

THE HEBE.

1846.
13th January.
THE HEBB.

and from all the evidence in the cause, that Messrs. Brown & Co. never did apply to Mr. Dunlop for the payment of any freight which might be due from him; and if this be so, as relates to Mr. Dunlop, this letter and the power of attorney are destitute of all effect in the cause.

It is, however, further averred in this affidavit, that a letter was also sent by Mr. Alexander to Dunlop & Co., informing them that Messrs. Brown were empowered to receive all freights due to the brig; and cautioning Messrs. Dunlop & Co. against paying any more money to Malcolm. This, undoubtedly, is a most important averment; and although I am clearly of opinion that the validity of the bond in question would not be affected by the payment of freight money to Malcolm by Dunlop, even after the receipt of the caution, unless it had been collusive for the purpose of obtaining a bond,—it may be satisfactory, under the circumstances, to examine the statement a little more minutely. And, first, I would observe, that no copy of this alleged letter to Mr. Dunlop has been produced, nor is its non-production in any manner accounted for. Do Messrs. Alexander and Turcan so conduct their business that they do not retain copies of such important documents? If they do not retain such copies, the fact should have been stated in the affidavit. Again, with respect to the nature of the letter, the Court has no certainty of its contents beyond a brief and general abstract furnished by Mr. Alexander himself. Assuming that this letter was actually received by Messrs. Dunlop & Co. before the freight was paid, I should not, in the absence of more specification as to the contents, be justified in concluding that it contained a direction to pay the money to Messrs. Brown,—more especially as their

own conduct, and the directions given to them in the letter accompanying the power of attorney, raise a strong presumption to the contrary. I have no legal or satisfactory evidence of the contents of this letter, or of its having been received before the alleged payment of the freight money was made; and it would be contrary to all moral presumption to convict Messrs. Dunlop of fraud upon such a statement, for I cannot dignify it with the name of evidence.

Upon the whole view of the case, I am of opinion, that all the necessary ingredients to constitute a bottomry transaction are clearly proved in the present instance. The ship was in debt, and was in need of necessaries to quit the port of Sydney and to return home; and I am at a loss to conceive, the agents for the owners having declined to make any advances for her assistance, by what means the money was to be procured, saving upon a bond of bottomry. I must further add, that it would be well if the owners of vessels despatched on these voyages, where everything must depend upon the integrity of the master, would exercise a little more caution in selecting masters worthy of their confidence, instead of endeavouring to throw the blame of their masters' misconduct upon others, by whose intervention alone they have regained possession of their vessel.

I pronounce for the bond, and with costs.

1846.
13th January.
THE HEBE.

THE BLENHEIM.

THIS was a suit for damage by a collision which occurred under somewhat unusual circumstances.

The case of the plaintiffs alleged, that, in the afternoon of the 31st June last, the steam-vessel the

21st January.
When a launch
is about to take
place in a river,
reasonable no-
tice of the in-
tended launch

1846.
21st January.

THE
BLENHEIM.

should be given; and such notice must be sufficiently specific, with respect to the time when the launch is to take place, as to prevent vessels navigating in the river from unknowingly incurring risk or loss.

It is further necessary that a good look-out should be kept, and great care should be taken to prevent the launch from coming into collision with any other vessel.

A vessel launched from a shipbuilder's yard in the river Tyne, proceeded against for running into a steamer proceeding down the river at the time.

Defence set up that the steamer might have avoided the collision by keeping more to the northward.

Defence sus-tained by Tri-nity Masters, and suit dis-missed with costs.

Velocity left Newcastle, with a general cargo and passengers, bound for Aberdeen. That whilst she was proceeding down the Tyne, and keeping as near as she could with safety to the north shore, the Blenheim was observed on the ways in the building yard of the Middle Dock Company, with flags on board, denoting that she was to be launched during the day. That when the Velocity was approaching the building-yard of the said company, the preventive stays were suddenly cut away and the launch came stern on into the Velocity, striking her with great violence. That although the Velocity was for some time in sight previous to the launch, no notice was given to the persons on board, nor was any signal made, saving the hoisting of the flags on board the Blenheim of the time when the launch was to take place.

The defence was rested upon the following grounds:—

First, That the flags hoisted on board the Blenheim conveyed a sufficient indication to all vessels navigating in the river that the launch was about to take place.

Secondly, That it is a well known and long established rule, that the launching of vessels takes place at the time of slackwater; and it was notorious that the Blenheim would be launched at that time upon the day in question.

Thirdly, That the steam-vessel, when about 100 yards above the yard, stopped to take a pilot on board; and the pilot on board the Blenheim, seeing her so stop, concluded that she was about to wait until the launch had taken place, and gave orders for the launch to proceed.

Lastly, That the steam-vessel was herself in fault in not keeping more to the north shore, there being

sufficient depth of water to enable her to do so with safety, and that by so doing the collision would have been altogether avoided.

The case was argued by

Addams and *R. Phillimore* for the Velocity.

Haggard and *Deane* for the Blenheim.

The Court was assisted by Trinity Masters.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

Gentlemen,—Although the present case is in some respects distinguished from an ordinary case of collision upon the high seas, there is, I apprehend, no distinction as to the principle by which it is to be decided. The first rule in all cases of the kind is, that reasonable notice of the intended launch should be given before the launch takes place. What such reasonable notice is must depend upon local considerations, as, for instance, the breadth of the river, the number of vessels passing up and down, and other circumstances of the like kind. It is however perfectly obvious that such notice must not be a mere general notice that a launch is about to take place upon a particular day; it must be sufficiently specific with respect to time to prevent vessels navigating in the river from incurring unknowingly the risk of loss or injury. Let us now consider how far the notice which is admitted to have been given in this case falls within this principle. It is admitted that flags were hoisted, and other indications were made denoting that a launch was to take place upon the day in question; it is also admitted that the ordinary and usual time for launching vessels is at a time when

1846.
21st January.
THE
BLENHEIM.

1846.
21st January.

The
BLENHEIM.

the tide is slack. On behalf of the promoters of the suit it is contended, that this latter circumstance would convey no distinct and definite notice of the actual time when this launch was about to take place, because the time of slack water is variable and uncertain. It is also further contended, that vessels navigating in the river are not bound to inconvenience themselves by awaiting such uncertainty, and that an actual notice and warning immediately preceding the launch ought to have been given under the circumstances of the case. Gentlemen,—the first question which you will have to consider is, how far such particular notice might have been given with facility in this case. If you should be of opinion that there would have been no difficulty in so doing, a further consideration will then arise, whether the giving such notice was strictly imperative upon the owners of the Blenheim as a matter of precaution, for the law requires that all legal precaution shall be taken.

In addition to the general precaution to which I have just adverted, the law further requires, on the part of the parties about to launch a vessel, the greatest care and vigilance to prevent the launch from coming into collision with any other vessel. For this purpose it is especially necessary that a good look-out should be kept at the time and immediately before the launch takes place.

The question then arises, whether the Velocity might not have been seen and the launch delayed until that vessel had passed, if such look-out had been kept upon the present occasion. This is a question of fact, upon which I must now refer you very shortly to those affidavits which have been brought in: I mean the affidavits of M'Leod, Chambers the pilot, and Rowell the foreman of the Middle Dock

ompany. It has been argued on behalf of the Blenheim, that Chambers the pilot was the person solely entrusted with the care of the launch, and that he was solely responsible his evidence with respect to what he said and did is more especially deserving of consideration. That according to his statement he saw the Velocity long before the launch took place, and, seeing her bring up, he naturally entertained the opinion that she was stopping to see the launch, and accordingly gave orders for the launch to proceed. His argument, it appears to me, is not borne out by the affidavits in question.

In the first place, Chambers does not state that he gave any orders at all; he says he saw the Velocity bring up, and supposing she intended to stop until after the launch "he allowed the proceedings to go on." I need scarcely observe, that this statement is widely different from the averment, that he ordered the launch to proceed. Again, Rowell in his affidavit distinctly states that every thing was done by the orders of M'Leod, and that he ordered the preventive stay to be cut without reference to the pilot. Lastly, M'Leod himself merely says, "that every thing being clear, the preventive stay was sawed," without saying by whose orders this was done; and he goes on to say, (which is an important admission,) that he ~~had~~ for the first time perceived the steam-vessel.

Gentlemen,—it will be for your serious consideration, whether M'Leod, in the situation in which he ~~was~~ placed, was not bound under the circumstances to have exercised greater vigilance and circumspection before he gave the order to cut away the preventive stay. If he had used his eyes and looked about him, it is abundantly clear that he must have seen the Velocity.

1846.
21st January.

THE
BLENHEIM.

1846.
21st January.

The
BLENHEIM.

I will now bring under your notice some of the points connected with the case of the Velocity, the vessel proceeding in the cause. It is urged against her, in the first place, that she is to blame in proceeding at all until the launch was over, inasmuch as the pilot she took on board was cognizant that a launch was about to take place. It cannot, I think, be doubted that the pilot was to a certain extent cognizant of the probability or even certainty that a launch would take place. Was he however sufficiently cognizant of the precise moment when the event would occur? This will be a point for you, gentlemen, to consider and determine. A second and more important consideration will be, whether the Velocity, having so proceeded, conducted herself with the prudence and caution she ought to have exercised. On the part of the Blenheim it is suggested, that she ought to have kept her course more to the northward: and that if this course had been adopted, she would have avoided all risk and possibility of collision. On the part of the Velocity it is averred, on the other hand, that her course was as far to the northward as could be pursued with safety. Which of these two contradictory averments is to be received I must leave entirely to your decision. You are far better acquainted with the river Tyne than myself, and are well able to ascertain the depth of water and the draught of a vessel of the size and tonnage of the Velocity: you can therefore judge of the practicability of her going more to the northward as suggested. If the measure was practicable, and the chance of collision would have been obviated by such a course, I have no hesitation in saying that in point of law the master of the Velocity was bound to have adopted it, although it might possibly be accompanied

by some little inconvenience and delay in the progress
of his voyage.

1846.
21st January.

THE
BLENHEIM.

The *Trinity Masters* were of opinion :—

First, That a sufficient notice of the intended launch was to be assumed under the circumstances of the case.

Secondly, That Chambers, the pilot, was justified in concluding that the Velocity was intentionally brought up for the purpose of waiting until the launch had taken place.

Thirdly, That there was ample depth of water for the Velocity to have gone more to the northward, and that if she had so done the collision would have been avoided.

Per Curiam.

The opinion of these gentlemen being that the Velocity is herself to blame in not proceeding more to the north, I must dismiss the owners of the Blenheim, and I must condemn the owners of the Velocity in the costs of these proceedings.

THE DANTE. STODDART.

29th January.

[N this case the Court was moved to pronounce for the validity of a bond of bottomry, and to grant primum decretum for the sale of this vessel, under the following circumstances :—

The affidavit to lead the decree set forth, that the vessel belonged to the port of Boston, and was bound on a voyage from the port of London to proceed forthwith to Shields, and there load a cargo of coke, and forthwith to sail and proceed to the port of Car-

A bottomry bond granted in the port of London upon an American vessel, stipulating that the payment of the bond should be made within twenty-four hours after the ship's arrival in a port of the United States.

*1846.
29th January.*

THE DANTE.

The vessel sailed from London, took in a cargo at Shields, and was in the actual progress of her voyage, when she was compelled to put into Plymouth, and was condemned as unseaworthy.

Payment of the bond decreed by the Court; and the maritime interest allowed, upon the ground that the maritime risk had been partially incurred, and was interrupted by the damaged condition of the vessel.

Semblo, if the vessel had not left the port of London, the maritime interest would not have been allowed.

thagena in Spain, and there to discharge the same; and with the first fair wind after such discharge to proceed to some port in the Mediterranean, and there to take on board a cargo of merchandize for a port in the United States. That prior to the departure of the ship from London the master was necessitated to take up the sum of £220, for the purpose of fitting the vessel for sea, and that the said sum was advanced by T. W.; and upon the 2nd of October, 1845, a bond was executed by the master, stipulating for the repayment of the money, together with a maritime interest of 15 per cent., within twenty-four hours after the arrival of the vessel at a port in the United States. That the vessel left the port of London and proceeded to Shields, and there took in a cargo of coal and coke, and proceeded thence bound to Cartagena; but in the progress of her voyage she sustained considerable damage at sea, and arrived at Plymouth in a sinking state. That the vessel has been examined by the surveyor appointed for Lloyd's at the port of Plymouth, and also by J. M. shipowner and surveyor at the same port, and has been pronounced totally unfit to proceed to sea. That payment of the money advanced had been demanded of the master of the said ship, but without effect, and that the said T. W. cannot recover the same without the aid of the Court.

Per Curiam.

The affidavit of the bondholder in this case states, that the vessel is now lying unseaworthy at Plymouth, and is unable to proceed to her port of destination. The first question which arises is, can I enforce a bond which is made payable only upon the arrival of the vessel at a port of the United States? I am not

aware of any case in which this point has been directly decided ; but looking to the general principles which govern this class of cases, I am of opinion that I am bound to pronounce in favour of the bond, and for this reason, that when money has been advanced on bottomry, and the completion of the voyage is prevented by the act of the master, or by some impossibility which the bondholder cannot control, it would be repugnant to all justice that his interest should be prejudiced by converting his security under a bond of bottomry into a debt upon personal credit. Another question arises with respect to the maritime interest of 15 per cent., which is stipulated to be paid in this bond. It is obvious that the whole risk and hazard of the voyage which was originally contemplated has not been incurred. If no risk whatever had been incurred, as in the case of a vessel never leaving port, I should have felt no hesitation in holding that no maritime interest was due. In the present case, however, part of that risk has been encountered in the voyage from London to Shields, and from thence to Plymouth. Under the peculiar circumstances of the case therefore, and considering that the further risk has been interrupted by the damaged condition of the ship, I shall not sever the interest, but shall pronounce for the bond and make the decree as prayed.

1846.
29th January.
THE DANTE.

THE OCEAN. WARD.

THIS was a question as to the validity of two bonds of bottomry executed by the master of this vessel. The first bond was executed at Sydney for the sum of

5th February.
Validity of a
bottomry bond
contested upon
the grounds :—
1st. That there

1846.
5th February.

THE OCRAK.
was no necessity for a bond
of bottomry;
2ndly. That
the bond was
vitiated per-
sonali exceptio-
nally of the
lender;

3rdly. That
some of the
items in the
bond consisted
of simple con-
tract debts
bought up from
the ship's cre-
ditors, at a dis-
count of about
50 per cent.

Bond gene-
rally referred to
the Registrar
and merchants
to report
thereon.

£830, with a maritime premium of 35 per cent. The second bond was given at Pernambuco, for the sum of £59, upon the same rate of premium.

The bonds were opposed by the mortgagee of the ship upon the following grounds.

With respect to the Sydney bond, it was contended, 1st. That the mortgagee was ready and willing to defray all the disbursements necessary to enable the vessel to return to this country. 2ndly. That the lender of the money, who had taken upon himself the concerns of the vessel, might, if he had used due diligence, have received on account of the freight and passage money upon the homeward voyage sufficient funds to discharge the liabilities of the ship, without having recourse to a bond of bottomry. A further objection to this bond was also taken, viz. that certain items included in the bond consisted of debts bought up by the bondholder at 50 per cent. discount; and that his conduct in the whole transaction amounted to what is in the Civil Law termed a personalis exceptio, which debarred him from his title to sue as bondholder in the case.

The second bond, executed at Pernambuco, was opposed upon the ground, that the bondholder, who had taken his homeward passage in the vessel, had not paid his passage money previous to the departure of the vessel from Sydney, and was a debtor to the vessel in the amount of that passage money when the second advance of money was made.

The case was argued by

Addams and Robinson for the bondholder.

Harding, contrà.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

The question to be determined in this case respects the validity of two bottomry bonds, which are put in suit by Mr. Richard Hall, and are opposed by the mortgagee of the vessel. The first bond is dated 3rd February, 1844, and is for the sum of £830, with interest at 35 per cent. This bond is contested upon two grounds: 1st. That there was no necessity, nor indeed any agreement, for a bond of bottomry. 2ndly. That the bond is vitiated personali exceptione, as it is termed in the Civil Law; in other words, by the personal misconduct of the lender. It is not denied in the defence that some advances were required to enable the vessel to clear out from Sydney and return to this country; but it is contended that such advances did not exceed the sum of £1000, and might have been procured without a recourse to a bond of bottomry. The first point, then, in the inquiry is, from what quarter and upon what security were these advances to be obtained? Certainly not upon the personal credit of the master; for he clearly had none at all, the master having been sent to Sydney, as far as it appears, without any consignee or agent, and having been compelled to remain there, to the great detriment of all parties having any interest in the vessel, for a period of fourteen months. It is equally clear that it was not upon the credit of the owners, because intelligence of the owners' bankruptcy had reached Sydney in November, 1843. Looking to the answer to the act on petition, I find two sources of supply are suggested. In the first place it is said, that the money might have been obtained upon the security of the mortgagee; in the next place, that the funds derivable from passage money and freight paid at Sydney before the ship quitted the

1846.
5th February.
THE OCEAN.

1846.
5th February.
THE OCEAN.

port would or might have been amply sufficient for her necessities. That Mr. Hayley would have been willing to have honoured any bills drawn upon him for the necessary service of the ship, may be taken as an admitted fact, but the mere averment of this fact is not sufficient. The true question is, was the master authorized to draw such bills? and would any person at Sydney have cashed these bills or advanced the money upon them? In order to ascertain this point, I must look at the affirmative evidence in the first instance, and I will begin with the affidavit of the master. His statement must, I conceive, be received with no small degree of caution; and for this reason, that his evidence affirming the existence of these alleged resources is utterly inconsistent with his own conduct in signing the bond, and is equally at variance with an honest discharge of his duty towards his employers. One of the main averments in the bond is the total deficiency of personal credit, and the absence of other available resources,—and to this averment he has affixed his seal. Again, if he had the power of procuring funds on personal credit without bottomry, or of realizing the funds to which I have referred, viz. the passage money and freight, it was his duty to have done so.

Having said thus much upon the general credit of this witness, I will now proceed to examine his evidence in detail. He states that in January, 1844, he received from Rowland, M'Nab & Co. a letter dated in September, 1843. That letter is written to him not by the owner, but by Mr. Hayley; and the important part of it is to this effect,—“ Supposing that you would have spent all your funds by this unlooked-for circumstance, I have written to a house in Sydney to do all the needful for you, so as to make you comfortable in

your funds ; but use all dispatch, diligence and economy, and get the best price you can for the fittings up." "The house in Sydney" here mentioned obviously refers to the house of Rowland, M'Nab & Co., and the question then arises, did the master proceed to act upon this letter, as it was his bounden duty to have done ? and did Rowland, M'Nab & Co. interfere in the ship's concerns ? Upon the first point, strange as it may appear, the master is wholly silent ; and his silence is the more remarkable, because in a subsequent part of his affidavit he distinctly swears that Rowland, M'Nab & Co. were willing to advance the money, and that Mr. Hall knew it : a startling averment, which, if true, would at once be destructive of the bond in question, for no man can advance money on bottomry when other persons are willing to advance it upon personal security. The truth of a fact like this, I must say, requires a little further examination ; and the observation immediately occurs, if Rowland, M'Nab & Co. would have advanced the money, why did they not do so ? and why did the ship remain at Sydney a whole twelvemonth after his communication had been received ? Against this statement, on the other hand, is the averment, alleged by Mr. Hall, that Rowland, M'Nab & Co. would not interfere at all, and that they declined to do so upon the ground that they were interested in some portions of the cargo which had been sold at Rio Janeiro. Under the circumstances I consider it impossible, upon such evidence as this, to come to the conclusion, that Rowland, M'Nab & Co. would have advanced the money on personal credit.

The master further swears in his affidavit, that he was informed by Mr. Rostrom, and also by Mr. Hall, who was then his clerk, that Mr. Rostrom had re-

1846.
5th February.
THE OCEAN.

1846.
5th February.
THE OCEAN.

ceived a letter from Mr. Hayley, stating that he was ready to discharge all necessary disbursements on account of the ship. Be it so. How does this advance the defendant's case? It only proves what is apparent throughout the whole of the case, that Mr. Hayley was willing to make the necessary disbursements for the ship, and was most anxious to hasten her return home: it does not tend to establish the real point in the case to which I have already adverted, viz. that any person was willing to make the advances at Sydney.

I now come to the affidavit of Mr. Hayley; and first, with respect to the power of attorney, which that gentleman forwarded to Mr. Eccleston with the view of protecting the interests of the ship. Mr. Hayley himself admits, that, as a means of establishing credit, it was altogether ineffective. Mr. Hayley, however, in his affidavit swears, that he believes Deloitte & Co. would have made the advances if the ship had not been taken out of their hands by Mr. Hall. If this fact were satisfactorily proved, it would be of great importance in the cause; but what is the proof by which it is to be established? There is no affidavit from Deloitte & Co., neither is there any evidence from the master to this effect. The averment rests entirely upon the assertion of Mr. Hayley's belief that the fact was so, Mr. Hayley being resident at Liverpool, where he could possibly know nothing about the matter. In point of fact, the assertion of Mr. Hayley amounts to a mere inference drawn by himself from the circumstances of the case,—an inference which, I need scarcely say, it is wholly impossible that this Court can receive as evidence in a matter of this description. With respect to the first objection, then, which has been taken in exception to

is bond, viz. that there were persons at Sydney ready make the advances upon personal security, I must leave to the determination that the proofs in the case altogether fail. The probabilities of the case are also strongly against it; and in considering these probabilities it is not to be forgotten, that Mr. Hayley had himself dishonoured a bill drawn upon him by the master, and that this was known at Sydney. though such bill might have been properly disengaged, yet the mercantile men at Sydney might not have been disposed minutely to consider the reasons. They would be more inclined to act upon the fact itself.

The second averment upon this part of the case is, that sufficient funds would or might have been provided from the passage and freight money received at Sydney without resorting to a bond of bottomry; but before I proceed to express my opinion as to the mode in which this averment should be disposed of, I think it expedient to consider the second ground upon which the bond is contested, viz. that the bond was vitiated by the personal misconduct of the lender. In the first place, let me examine how did Mr. Hall stand in relation to this ship? He had been clerk to Mr. Rostrom, who had been appointed by the master agent for the ship. From his situation, and indeed from all the facts and evidence in the case, he must be assumed to have been fully cognizant of all the circumstances relating to the ship. He must have known of all the letters written by Mr. Hayley, so far as they came to the knowledge of Mr. Rostrom, his principal; he must also have known of Mr. Hayley's willingness to make the necessary disbursements for the vessel. Conceding that all this was known to the highest extent, would the knowledge of these facts de-

1846.
5th February.
THE OCEAN.

1846.
5th February.
THE OCEAN.

bar Mr. Hall from the right to take a bottomry bond upon any advances made by him for the service of the ship? I conceive not; and for this reason, that he was not bound to advance his money upon the personal credit of Mr. Hayley: and there is no evidence whatever to show that any one else would have advanced the money upon such security. But it is said, that upon the bankruptcy of Mr. Rostrom, his connection with the ship ceased, and that Deloitte & Co. took charge of her, and, according to the sworn belief of Mr. Hayley, they were ready to make the advances upon his personal credit. If this be true, here was a mercantile house in charge of the vessel in the month of October, 1843, the necessary advances were provided, and the master willing and desirous to discharge his duty to his employer, the chief part of that duty being to keep down as much possible the expenses of the ship; yet in that same month, Mr. Hall is employed to manage all the concerns of the ship, or, in other words, to do what Deloitte & Co. and the master ought to have done without the interference of Mr. Hall or any other person. I have already observed, that in support of this averment there is not a scintilla of evidence from Deloitte & Co., who might have placed the question beyond all doubt. Looking at all the res gestæ upon this part of the transaction, I confess that I am unable for a single moment to reconcile Mr. Hall's appointment with the fact that the vessel was really and truly in charge of Messrs. Deloitte & Co. It is painful for the Court to notice the frequent recurrence of cases in which masters of most valuable ships are sent upon these distant voyages without even a recommendation to any house of responsibility,—the consequence is, that the masters detain the vessels, to the infinite injury of all con-

cerned ; and then come back with bottomry bonds, upon which it is impossible to obtain any correct information, and which bonds, whether valid or not, in the great majority of instances show that the masters have betrayed the interests committed to their charge.

I observed, in a recent case which was before me (*a*), and I now repeat the observation, that it is highly incumbent upon the owners of vessels to exercise much greater caution in the selection of masters upon whose credit and good character they can rely. Assuming that Mr. Hall was duly authorized by the master to collect the debts and to manage the concerns of the ship, what is the next step in the case ? Why, I find Mr. Hall buying up from the creditors some of their debts at about 50 per cent. discount. It is quite clear, that if this bond should be ultimately pronounced for, these debts can form no part of the sum recovered upon the bond. If these debts were bona fide debts, they were debts originally contracted upon personal credit. The creditors could only sell them as such; and Mr. Hall, who stands in the creditors' shoes, can no more convert them into a lien upon the ship, to be covered by a bond of bottomry, than he could if he had originally made the advances himself upon personal security. The law of this Court, as clearly laid down by Lord Stowell in the case of the *Augusta*, distinctly shows that such conversion can not be legally effected. The objection to these claims, therefore, appears to me to be clearly valid; at the same time, they will not necessarily vitiate the whole of this bond. If part of a bond be deducted as invalid, the whole bond does not fail; it may be good in part, and bad in part. In following

1846.
5th February.
THE OCEAN.

(*a*) *The Hebe*, *suprà*, p. 421.

1846.
5th February.
THE OCEAN.

up the inquiry into this part of the case, I must now advert to two or three of the documents in the cause, which were much commented upon in the argument, and which, I confess, made a very strong impression upon the mind of the Court. A letter dated "Sydney, 1st December, 1843," is annexed to the affidavit of Mr. Hayley, and this letter purports to be from Mr. Rostrom, and bears his signature, but is admitted to be in the handwriting of Mr. Hall himself. The contents of this letter are to the following effect:—

" DEAR SIR,

" Your favour per Clara was duly received, but I beg most distinctly to deny that I have been the means of the Ocean being detained here. The facts are simply these: On her arrival here she was put into my hands, and as soon as possible I proceeded to get her ready for Batavia. Messrs. M'Nab & Co., Eccleston & Hirst, and other claimants, (whose opinions were confirmed by the first lawyers here, viz. Carr, Rogers and Owen,) immediately took steps to prevent her proceeding to sea. To sea therefore she did not go, and at the present time she is in the harbour. By dint of persuasion, and in consequence of the lawyers having changed their opinion, I have hopes that she will proceed almost immediately. I need not say that many of the hands were discharged a long time ago, and that the greatest economy has been exercised during her stay here. To whom to write I did not know. I trust, however, that she will make something handsome at home—and freights appear to be generally good at Batavia,—if I cannot get her ready soon for London. My next communication will be to inform you either that she has sailed, or that she has been sold by order of the Court of Ad-

niralty. It will depend upon what terms can be made for a bottomry bond; 25 per cent. has been charged in good times, but as things are now so bad we can scarcely say what it will be done at: perhaps 5 or 40 per cent. I will, however, do my best to promote your interests; and remain very respectfully

"JNO. ROSTROM."

1846.
5th February.

THE OCEAN.

Considering that the gentleman who thus proffers his services had been a bankrupt two months before, and that the vessel, according to the evidence, had been taken out of his hands, and intrusted to the charge of other people, I must say that the contents of this letter are somewhat startling. It predicts in December the bottomry bond of the 3rd of February and the 35 per cent. premium, with a power of anticipation I could hardly suppose him to have possessed. He had nothing to do with it, and the ship was out of his hands.

Another letter, equally unintelligible to me, is a letter dated 26th June, and addressed to Mr. Hayley at Liverpool. It is in these words:—

"SIR,

"The Ocean having arrived, may I request to see you in town at your earliest convenience? Captain Ward will give you my address, should you decide upon coming, but if not, please to address me to the care of C. J. Metcalfe, Esq., Military Department, India House; and let me know what you wish done.

I was in the office of Mr. Rostrom at Sydney, and write this as one of his clerks. Yours respectfully

"J. HALL."

From this letter it appears, that it was not written by Mr. Hall in the character of bondholder, but in the capacity of clerk to Mr. Rostrom; and for what

1846.
5th February.
THE OCEAN.

purpose this was added it is utterly impossible for me to devise. Coupling it with the other letters, it tends to show that the correspondence has not been conducted in the most direct and intelligible manner. There is also another document said to be in Mr. Hall's handwriting, namely, the draft of a letter, as I understand, signed by the master, and sent to Mr. Hayley, in which he speaks of advertizing for a bond of bottomry; but there is no evidence of any advertisement whatever. Upon the whole view of this case I must say, that the entire transaction is surrounded with circumstances of great suspicion. At the same time I am not disposed to hold that these circumstances, suspicious as they are, are sufficient to induce me at once to dismiss this suit. I shall refer the case to the Registrar and merchants for the purpose of considering generally the whole of these accounts, and of reporting specifically what balance was due to Mr. Hall upon which a bond of bottomry could be legally taken. This reference will at once dispose of the point I reserved for consideration, viz. whether Mr. Hall received from the freight and passage money before the ship left Sydney, sufficient funds to meet the necessities of the ship without resorting to a bottomry bond.

The other bond, which was executed by the master at Pernambuco, I shall in like manner refer to the Registrar and merchants; and I shall reserve my final decision until the Registrar and merchants have made their report to the Court.



THE NEW EAGLE.

MOTION.

1846.
5th February.

case the vessel was found derelict off Flamborough Head, and was taken by the salvors into possession, where she was arrested in a cause of suit, and was sold under a decree of the Court. The proceeds of the sale were brought into the Court, and the Court decreed a moiety of the net proceeds to the salvors. An application was now made on behalf of the mortgagees of the vessel, that the remaining moiety of the proceeds should be paid to them. This application was opposed on behalf of the creditor, who alleged that he had advanced £66 for the service of the vessel in the payment of the seamen's wages, board, &c.

for the mortgagees.

more for the creditor.

A simple contract creditor not permitted to have his asserted debt paid out of the proceeds of a ship which had been found derelict, and had been sold under the decree of the Court, the application being resisted by the mortgagees of the vessel, who claimed the proceeds in question in satisfaction of their mortgage.

Proceeds directed to be paid out to the mortgagees.

Curiam.

I first read the affidavits on which this motion was founded, I felt a strong inclination to support the claim which has been made by Mr. Brambles, the creditor, so far as the law would allow me. I find that the principles of law which are in these Courts prevent me from affording him justice. I must be guided by the decision of the Council in the case of the Neptune, reported 1838, pp. p. 94; and after that decision it is impossible to make a distinction between the proceeds of the ship itself. I must, therefore, reject the claim of Mr. Brambles, and direct the remaining moiety of the proceeds to be paid to the mortgagees upon the terms of their deed of mortgage.

1846.
4th March.

Construction of
the Cork Har-
bour Pilot Act,
1 Geo. 4, c. 52,
s. 33.

Sembie, the
General Pilot
Act, 6 Geo. 4,
c. 126, is con-
fined to Eng-
land, and was
never intended
to apply to
Ireland at all.

Owners of a
damaging vessel
running into
into another
vessel in Cork
Harbour con-
demned in the
damage, the
pilot in charge
not being taken
by compulsion.

THE EDEN. PARSONS.

IN this case an action was brought by the owners of the Welcome Return against this vessel, for damage by collision in Cork harbour; both vessels at the time beating out of the harbour, and both being upon the starboard tack. The case was argued upon the merits before Trinity Masters, and they pronounced that the Eden was to blame. When the Court delivered its judgment a question was reserved for further argument, how far the owners of the Eden were exempt from responsibility, upon the ground that a duly licensed pilot was on board and in charge of the Eden at the time of the collision, and that such pilot was taken on board under the provisions of an act of parliament, 1 Geo. IV. c. 52, s. 33.

In support of the owners' exemption from liability

Addams and *Robinson* contended, that the words of the 33rd section, "no person shall offer himself as a pilot, or take charge of any vessel arriving or sailing from the harbour of Cork, saving such persons as shall be appointed for the purpose by the commissioners under the statute," amounted to a positive injunction upon all masters entering and quitting the harbour to put their vessels in charge of a pilot, and that the penalty of £10, specified in the act, extended to them if they presumed to navigate their own vessels. That although there was no proviso in the act itself expressly exempting from liability the owners of vessels having such pilot on board, the penalty of £10 would make the taking the pilot an act of compulsion on the part of the master, and the owner would consequently be relieved from responsibility, under the principles laid down in the courts of com-

non law in the cases of *Milligan v. Wedge*, *Lucey v. Ingram*, and that of *Carruthers v. Sydebottom*. That if the local act 1 Geo. IV. c. 52, was insufficient ~~per se~~ to protect the owners of the *Eden*, the Cork Harbour Act was to be taken in conjunction with the General Pilot Act; and under the decision in *Carruthers v. Sydebottom* the owners' responsibility was taken away.

1846.
4th March.
THE EDEN.

Phillimore and Bayford, contra.—That the words of the 33rd section, which had been referred to, were not intended to apply to the masters of vessels navigating their own vessels as suggested, but were exclusively confined to persons volunteering their services as pilots, without being duly licensed by the harbour commissioners. The £10 penalty was confined to these parties alone; and that even in case the master of a vessel entering or quitting the harbour should think fit to employ such unlicensed person, the master himself would not be affected by the penalty; à fortiori, no such result would ensue if he choose to navigate his own ship. That the act of taking a pilot being voluntary, the principles in the common law cases which had been cited did not apply. That the attempt to connect the Cork Harbour Act with the General Pilot Act could not be sustained, because the provisions of the General Pilot Act did not extend to Ireland, but was confined to England alone. Lastly, that the true principle upon which the point in issue depended had been laid down in a court of common law in the case of *Martin v. Temperley*, reported in *Adolphus & Ellis*. That there was a strong analogy between the circumstances of that case and the present case, and that the decision delivered by the Court of

1846.
4th March.
THE EDEN.

Queen's Bench in that case was an authority of the highest weight, and was conclusive of the question involved in this discussion.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

When the Court pronounced its judgment in this case, that the Eden was to blame, and that no misconduct was imputable to the Welcome Return, a question was reserved for further consideration,—how far the owners of the Eden were relieved from responsibility under the provisions of the Pilot Act, the collision having occurred in the harbour of Cork, and the Eden being at the time in charge of a pilot duly licensed to act as pilot in that locality. This question I have now to determine; and looking to the difficulties which have heretofore been experienced, and to the conflicting decisions which have been delivered in other Courts, I am glad that I have taken time to deliberate upon the subject, although perhaps my own original impression has not been changed by the arguments which have been urged in the present instance. It is not unimportant to the consideration in question to bear in mind the view which Lord Stowell entertained in the case of the Neptune the Second, a case which is reported in the first volume of Dodson's Reports, page 467. The decision in that case was wholly independent of any reference to legislative enactments. From my own recollection of that case I am satisfied that no allusion was made to any act of parliament, and in delivering his judgment Lord Stowell declared in most explicit terms, that the owners of vessels were responsible to the injured parties for the misconduct of pilots taken on board. It may be asked who were the pilots of whom Lord

Stowell was speaking? Clearly not the persons of whom in earlier times the class of pilots consisted: viz. a body of persons not appropriated to the local navigation of vessels by any competent authority, but persons promiscuously plying about in the neighbourhood of ports and channels and taken on board by the masters at their own option, for the purpose of conducting their vessels where a local knowledge and experience was required. Long previous to the time when Lord Stowell delivered his judgment in the Neptune the Second pilots had been incorporated by charter, and their duties and privileges regulated by acts of parliament. As early as the reign of George the First there were statutes for the regulation of pilots, relating more especially to those who navigate on the River Thames. These acts of parliament, it must be assumed, were not unknown to the very learned judge who decided the case of the Neptune the Second; and in his decision in that case Lord Stowell must be understood to assert, that by the common law of the Court of Admiralty, independent of all statutory enactments, the having on board a pilot duly licensed and authorized to act as pilot, did not exempt the owners from a responsibility for the acts of that pilot.

The opinion thus expressed by that very eminent judge was not only his own individual opinion, but was obviously the received opinion of this Court from the earliest periods; for surely it is not assuming too much to say, that, if the fact had been otherwise, cases would have occurred and decisions would have been found where the contrary doctrine had been established, viz. that the owners were exempt from responsibility upon the mere fact that a licensed pilot was on board. Without referring to other authorities in this

1846.
4th March.
THE EDEN.

1846.
4th March.
THE EDEN.

Court upon the point I may here observe, that the same opinion has been entertained at least once in the courts of common law, in the case of the Attorney-General *v.* Case, where the Court of Exchequer held that the owners of the vessel were liable, although the vessel was in charge of a duly licensed pilot. The judgment in that case was rested upon the assumption, that the pilot was taken on board not by compulsion but voluntarily, and, as far as I am informed, the same principle has been adopted in all cases where the taking the pilot was not compulsory, or where the liability was not taken away by act of parliament, as in the case of *Lucy v. Ingram*. How far then does this principle apply to the present case? If I am to hold that the Cork Local Act comprises the whole statutory law which is applicable to the case, I can entertain no doubt that there was no compulsion upon the owners of this vessel to take a pilot, and that there is no legislative enactment which takes from such owners the responsibility for the consequences of this collision. The two sections of this act, which it is admitted are the only sections which have any reference upon the point in issue, are the 32nd and 33rd sections. The 32nd section, after reciting that divers accidents had happened from the incompetency of persons taking charge of vessels as pilots, gives power to the commissioners of the harbour to license a certain number of persons during their will and pleasure to act as pilots. The 33rd section enacts, that after a certain period subsequent to the passing of the act, no person should offer himself and take charge of a vessel as pilot, unless he be so licensed, under a penalty of £10. There is also a further proviso, that if the person not duly licensed who should take charge of any vessel arriving at the

harbour or port of Cork should, upon the arrival of the vessel within the headlands of the harbour, or as soon after as any person nominated and appointed by the commissioners should offer himself, deliver up the charge of the vessel to the pilot so offering himself, then in such case such unlicensed person should not be liable to any penalty. Referring to these two sections it is obvious, that this statute leaves the masters of vessels at full liberty to navigate their own vessels without taking any pilot at all; nay, further, it imposes no penalty upon them if they take an unlicensed pilot. The penalty or compulsion, if I may use the expression, is upon other persons: viz. the persons who should act as pilots without being duly licensed. Thus far there is no difficulty in the consideration of the present question; but another view of the case has been suggested by the counsel in their argument, from which it is my duty not to shrink, viz. that under the authority of the decision in the case of Carruthers *v.* Sydebottom the Cork Local Act must be taken in conjunction with the General Pilot Act, and that by virtue of that decision the responsibility of the owners of the Eden is taken away. Against this view of the question there are, in my opinion, three very strong objections. First, that the decision of the Court of King's Bench, in the case of Carruthers *v.* Sydebottom, is not reconcilable with the opinion of the Court of Exchequer in the case of the Attorney-General *v.* Case, and it has been so stated by Lord Tenterden in his book on Shipping. Secondly, that both these decisions apply to the preceding Pilot Act, 52 Geo. III. c. 39, and not to the 6 Geo. IV. c. 125, although it must be admitted that the two acts very closely resemble each other. Thirdly, (and this perhaps is the most important distinction of

1846.
4th March.
THE EDEN.

1846.
4th March.
THE EDEN.

all,) the question at issue in this case does not relate to a pilot taken on board on the coast of England, but in a harbour of Ireland. The only section in the act, 6 Geo. IV., which was cited by the counsel for the Eden was the 72nd section, and it is evident that this section alone could never help me to a right conclusion upon the point in issue. It was necessary that I should look through the whole statute, and I have done so, in order to see whether it was the intention of the legislature to render the act applicable to every pilot throughout the whole kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The whole of the statute, it appears to me, negatives the proposition that it was ever intended to apply to Ireland at all. When I look at the statute what do I find in the 5th section? I find this provision,—“ Be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Corporation of Trinity House, Deptford Strond, and they are hereby required, to appoint from time to time, as often and for such period as they in their discretion shall think fit, proper and competent persons at such port or places in England as they shall think requisite, except where there are local acts with which they are not to interfere.” The very outset of the act therefore shows that it could contemplate England, and England alone. If it were necessary I might refer to other passages in the act which have all the same bearing; as, for instance, all the bye-laws are to be sanctioned by the Chief Justice of the King’s Bench in England, and in many cases applications are to be made to the quarter sessions. There are no words which refer to any Irish court under any circumstances whatever, and all these provisions would be a mass of absurdity if this act were meant to extend to Ireland.

Under the circumstances of the case, therefore,

ng considered the act of parliament to the best
y ability, I come to the conclusion that the
eral Pilot Act does not apply in the present
nce. If this be so, the owners of the Eden must
sponsible, unless the whole of the law heretofore
tioned by high authority is to be overruled. This
asked to do upon the single authority of the
of Milligan *v.* Wedge, in which case it is said
general principle has been laid down which
rule in all other cases. On the other hand,
uthority of the decision in Martin *v.* Temperley
strongly urged upon me. I do not think it
ssary to enter upon a minute discussion of these
cases. I dare not be the first to break down the
nd well recognized principle, that the owners of
ils are liable whenever they take a pilot without
ulsion, or are not relieved from responsibility by
f parliament; to this rule I am bound to adhere,
I think that I have no discretion to depart from
ever strong the analogy may be to other cases
other matters decided in the courts of common

I wish it to be distinctly understood, that I do
not presume to give any opinion upon these cases,
if the principles which have governed them be
licable to cases like the present, they must be
lied by a higher authority than mine. I am of
ion that the pilot in this case having been taken
oard not by compulsion, the owners of the Eden
responsible for the damage in question, and I do
see that they are relieved from that responsibility
ny act of parliament. With respect to the costs,
owners of the Eden must pay the costs of the
nal hearing, and, with respect to the point of law
h has been now raised, each party must pay their
costs.

1846.
4th March.
THE EDEN.

THE CHIEFTAIN.

1846.
4th March.

Salvage service performed to a British ship by one of her majesty's cruisers on the coast of Africa.

Bill for £400 as salvage remuneration, drawn by the master upon the owners in England in favour of the salvors.

In the course of the homeward voyage the vessel founders, and the bill upon presentation is refused payment by the owners.

Monition against the owners refused by the Court.

MOTION.

IN this case the vessel was stranded upon the coast of Africa, where she was fallen in with by her majesty's steam-vessel the Thunderer. With the assistance of the crew of the Thunderer the vessel was unladen and repaired; and prior to her departure on her homeward voyage, the master of the Chieftain drew a bill upon the owners in England for £400 as a salvage remuneration to the officers and crew of the Thunderer for their services. In the course of her voyage home the Chieftain foundered off St. George's Island, and the bill upon presentation to the owners was refused payment.

The *Queen's Advocate* now moved the Court to decree a monition against the owners of the Chieftain, to show cause why the £400 should not be paid to the officers and crew of the Thunderer.

Per Curiam.

My difficulty in acceding to this motion arises from the fact that the property to which the alleged services were rendered is actually lost and gone. I am not aware of any case in which a monition to show cause has issued against the owners of property which has been lost; and I feel that in granting such monition in the present instance I should convert the jurisdiction of this Court from a proceeding in rem to a proceeding in personam. I must, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, refuse the monition as prayed.



THE SARACEN.

1845.
25th March.

N this case a suit was promoted against this vessel by the owners of the brig Diligent, and by the owners of part of the cargo on board, for damage by collision, whereby the brig and the entire cargo on board were sunk and lost.

A separate action was at the same time entered on behalf of the owners of the remaining portion of the cargo, but this action was not further prosecuted. Upon the 6th of May, 1845, the original action came on for hearing, and the Court, assisted by Trinityasters, pronounced for the damage in question with costs, referring the amount to the Registrar and merchants. Upon the same day when the sentence was pronounced, and subsequent to the hearing of the original cause, a second action was entered by the owners of the remaining portion of the cargo in the sum of £2500, and the action proceeded in the usual form by default.

The vessel having been sold under a decree of the Court, the proceeds of the sale, amounting to the sum of £1037: 15s. 6d., were brought in upon the 24th of June; and upon the 4th of November the proctor for the original promoters prayed these proceeds to be paid out of the Registry to his parties. His prayer was opposed by the proctor for the owners of the remaining portion of the cargo, who prayed to be heard upon his act on petition.

An act on petition was accordingly brought in, setting forth in substance, that the non-prosecution of the original suit by the owners of the remaining portion of the cargo was occasioned by a private understanding with the proctor for the original promoters

Owners of a damaged vessel and part of the cargo, who had obtained a decree of the Court in a cause of damage, entitled to have the proceeds of the damaging vessel paid out of the Registry to satisfy the amount of their damage, in preference to the owners of the remaining portion of the cargo, who had not brought their action until after the decree of the first suit had been pronounced.

Prayer of the owners of the remaining portion of the cargo, that the proceeds might be applied pro rata to satisfy the two actions, rejected.

1846.
25th March.

THE
SARACEN.

of the suit—that their interests were identical, and that the results of the original proceeding would be equally beneficial to both parties. That subsequent to the decision a proposal was made to the proctor of the original promoters, that the proceeds of the sale of the vessel should be paid out to him for an equitable division amongst the owners of the brig and the owners of the cargo in proportion to their respective losses; and that this proposal was acceded to, and was in the progress of being carried into effect.

This statement was expressly contradicted in the reply; and upon the 26th of January the question was argued, when the Court took time to consider its judgment.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

The learned judge, having fully adverted to the proceedings in the case as detailed above, proceeded to observe to the following effect:—

The question which I have to determine is, whether a suitor in this Court, having obtained a decree in a cause of this description, is to be curtailed of the benefit of that decree by a distribution of the proceeds in favour of claimants who have not proceeded to enforce their claims until the decree was made, or who have commenced their proceedings upon the very same day. Let me consider how the question would stand in analogy to the principles and practice of other courts. The class of actions which approximate most nearly to the present case are the cases of creditors proceeding to recover their claims from the executors of a deceased testator. Although such actions are personal in point of form, in substance they may be considered as proceedings in rem; for if the creditor succeeds in his suit, he is to be paid out of the

assets of the testator, and not, in ordinary cases at least, out of the property belonging to the executors themselves. The law upon this point, so far as it is necessary to examine it for the elucidation of this case, is to be found in Williams' Treatise on Executors. It is not my intention to go through the whole law as it is there laid down; it is sufficient to observe that the law as stated in the 5th section clearly favours those who are most active in seeking its aid and assistance. After enumerating a variety of claims which are entitled to priority of payment, the learned author distinctly lays it down, that amongst creditors of equal degree the creditor who first obtains judgment must be paid in preference to all others of the same degree; that in order to insure an equal distribution of the estate, a bill must be filed on behalf of all the creditors; and unless this be done, not only may an individual creditor obtain a preference by his greater diligence, but even a court of equity will not interfere to prevent a preference by an executor confessing a judgment.

I will now examine whether there be any distinction in principle between the present case and the cases to which I have referred. The vessel has been sold under a decree of this Court, and the party who has obtained the judgment will, as I understand, be required to give what may be termed nominal bail to answer "*all latent demands*" before the money will be paid to him from the Registry of the Court. I have considered with much care the form of the bond by which the sureties bind themselves upon this occasion.—It is to this effect: "That they are responsible to our lady the Queen to restore a sum of money pronounced to be due by the Court to the suitor in the cause, in case any person shall come in for his in-

1846.
25th March.

THE
SARACEN.

1846.
25th March.

THE
SARACEN.

terest in the said sum ;" the sureties also further bind themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, "to bring into the Registry of the Court a certain sum whosoever the Court shall order, and to save harmless the Judge, Registrar, Marshal, and all officers of the said Court." These concluding words are inserted exclusively for the protection of this Court and its officers ; and when I recollect what in former times was the legal condition of the officers of this Court, viz. that they might be held responsible for error if they departed in the slightest degree from the strict bounds of their jurisdiction, I am not surprised that these words should be inserted, *ex abundanti cautela*, for their protection. From my own experience in this Court I am not aware that any judicial interpretation has ever been put upon an instrument of this kind ; and I certainly feel it is no easy duty to attempt the interpretation in the present instance. In order to assist the case of Mr. Bowdler's parties, the instrument in question must be construed to mean, that the owners of the remaining portion of the cargo on board this vessel are at liberty to come in at any time they may think fit, and having established their claim are entitled to share pro rata in these proceeds. I do not, I confess, so read the instrument, and I cannot find in it any words which can by possibility sustain any such construction. I am even inclined to doubt if the instrument itself has any application at all to a claim of this description. Looking to the whole tenor of it, I am rather disposed to believe that the expression referred to applies exclusively to original interests in the subject-matter, as in cases of title, where the proceedings had been in *pœnam* and the ship had been condemned without an appearance. It is not necessary, however, that I should decide this point in the

present instance ; it is sufficient for me to state, that upon a careful consideration of this instrument, I can not find any expressions which, by the most extended construction, can be interpreted to mean that a suitor prior petens, who has obtained his money, shall bring it back for the purpose of sharing it with a subsequent suitor who has no preferential claim ;—I say bring it back, because, as far as this case is concerned, I see no distinction in principle between bringing back the money and being prevented from receiving the whole without paying part over to another person. If I am correct in the view which I have thus taken of the instrument under consideration, it is clear that as far as its contents are concerned it can furnish no foundation for the claim which is now set up. It may be said, that by the terms of the instrument I am empowered to order the money to be brought back. It may be that I am possessed of such an authority, but I cannot redistribute the money so brought back by the force of any directions which are to be found in the instrument ; neither can I discover any principle of equity as administered in other courts which would justify me in taking such a step. No court of equity I am satisfied would interpose its authority to any such extent in favour of a creditor who should come in and invoke its interference after a decree had been obtained by another creditor of the same degree ; and it would ill become this Court, exercising as it does an equitable as well as a legal jurisdiction, to do that which a court of equity would decline.

It has been suggested that the ancient practice of the Court, as it has long been understood, is in favour of the application, and bears out the claim which is set up. If this be so, and the proof of such practice

1846.
25th March.

THE
SARACEN.

1846.
25th March.

THE
SARACEN.

be satisfactorily established, it would undoubtedly be my duty to conform to that practice, however opposed to my own views and reasoning upon the matter. But I must first be satisfied that such a practice really exists. If the practice has a legal existence, in the long series of years during which this Court has exercised its jurisdiction, cases must surely have occurred in which the asserted practice has been applied. I myself know of no such cases, and none have been mentioned ; and in the absence of such cases I do not feel disposed, upon the mere understanding that such a practice has prevailed in this Court, to depart from a principle which has been distinctly recognized and adopted in other courts. In the course of the argument I have been referred to the statute 53 Geo. III. c. 159, and it has been urged by one of the learned counsel, I believe Dr. Harding, that I might give the relief prayed for under the provisions of this statute, by calling in aid the 15th section. The 15th section is in these words : “ Be it further enacted, that if any suit for any such loss or damage as aforesaid shall be instituted or depending in any court competent to act as a court of equity for the purposes of this act, such court shall and is hereby authorized and empowered to proceed in such suit for such purposes, in the same manner and under the same regulations and with the same powers as are herein given to courts of equity, so far as the same are applicable to the nature of such court and the forms of proceedings therein, and such court shall use all such means as a court of equity is by this act empowered to use for the purposes of this act.” Assuming for the purposes of this discussion that the Court of Admiralty is included under the provisions of this section, the following difficulty arises : viz. that the right of filing the bill

n equity is exclusively given by the act to the owners or their protection, and not to the claimants for their advantage. This is a difficulty which I am unable to overcome, and however desirous I should have been to have assisted the claimants if their application had been made in due time, that is, before my decree was pronounced, I am clearly of opinion that I cannot now extend in their behalf the provisions of this statute beyond the limits which the legislature intended. The power conferred by the statute is a power created by act of parliament, and must be limited by the terms of the act itself.

In concluding my remarks upon this part of the case I may here observe, that if bail had been given in the present instance, such bail I apprehend would have been responsible only to the plaintiffs in the action which they had bailed. It could not, I conceive, for a moment be contended, that the claimants bringing the subsequent actions would have any title to recover against such bail or to participate in any fund which they might bring into the Registry of his Court in discharge of their liabilities as bail. The whole question which has formed the subject of his discussion will receive a more satisfactory solution by a short reference to first principles. How stood the ancient law with respect to cases of damage? By the ancient law, owners of damaging vessels were responsible to the full extent of the damage which they had occasioned, and the parties complaining of the loss or damage might proceed at their election either in this Court or the courts of common law. If the owners of the damaging vessel bailed an action brought against them by one set of claimants in this Court, other parties whose property had been injured might arrest the vessel in a second and separate action.

1846.
25th March.

THE
SARACEN.

1846.
25th March.

The
SARACEN.

This I conceive might have been done toties quoties; and where all parties were equally active in bringing their suits before any final decree was pronounced, the proceedings of the Court were so regulated as to secure a rateable distribution of the fund between the various claimants having similar claims; a preference however was at all times given to the party who by his vigilance availed himself first of the remedy of the law in obtaining a judgment. Having once obtained such judgment he could not be compelled to surrender the benefit of the Court's decree, by sharing it with other claimants who might have been less active. How do these principles apply to the present case? It is said that the ship is a foreign ship, and that in consequence of the owners being resident abroad the right of action which remains to the injured parties is altogether nugatory. Be it so: will that circumstance entitle a person who has not exercised his right of proceeding with proper diligence to share with him who has? I am of opinion that it would not. I will put the following case:—a creditor brings an action against an executor in a court of equity, the creditor recovers a judgment, and the executor afterwards quits the country and escapes out of the jurisdiction of the court; could another creditor who had neglected to sue whilst the executor was in this country, demand from the court that the money received under the judgment by the first creditor should be distributed pro rata in liquidation of their respective claims? Clearly not. The same principle, it appears to me, is directly applicable to proceedings in this Court in a case of this description; and I do not consider that I should be justified in making any distinction in the present instance upon the grounds of the suggested difficulties arising from

the circumstances that the vessel is a foreign vessel and the owners are resident abroad.

I must now advert, in conclusion, to another ground which has been urged in support of this application; viz. the alleged agreement between the proctors of the respective parties in the cause. It is averred in the act on petition, first, that Mr. B., the proctor for the parties making this application, delayed commencing his action with the consent of the proctor for the promoters of the original suit. Secondly, that there was a mutual agreement between the proctors that all parties should share rateably in the proceeds of the vessel. These averments would be important if duly established; but how are they met in the present instance? Why they are met by a distinct and total denial on the other side. "M. expressly denied that he ever at any time recognized the claims of B.'s parties to participate rateably with his parties in the proceeds of the sale of the Saracen, or that any proposal for the division of the proceeds amongst all the owners of the Diligent and her cargo, in proportion to the damage sustained by them respectively, were ever made to him at any time prior to the month of June last." The act on petition, I am aware, is supported by the affidavit of Messrs. B. and B., and no affidavit has been made in support of this averment which is set forth in the answer to the act. With respect to the affidavit of Messrs. B. and B., I entertain not a shadow of a doubt but that such affidavit contains their real apprehension of all the facts; at the same time I cannot suppose that the proctor on the other side, in setting forth the statement contained in his answer, has made averments as to his own personal acts in these proceedings which are not true in his belief. It is no part of my present duty to recon-

1846.
25th March.

The
SARACEN.

*1846.
25th March.*

*THE
SARACEN.*

file these contradictory statements, neither is it my intention to enter more in detail into the agreement itself, because I am of opinion that the asserted agreement, even if established, could not be carried out by the authority of this Court. If it be a valid agreement, its enforcement belongs to the jurisdiction of other courts, and to those courts the parties must resort for any assistance they may require. Then how stands the real question which I have to determine? I am asked to alter a decree made by the Court in favour of parties who have been vigilant in supporting their own claims, and to deprive them of a great part of the benefit of such decree, by making them share it with others who have been less diligent and less careful of their own interests. I am of opinion that I am not authorized so to do, either by law or by the practice of the Court. I must, therefore, pronounce against this application for a pro rata distribution of the proceeds, and direct the proceeds to be paid out to Mr. Middleton's parties. Looking to the difficulties of the case, and considering that the question which I have had to decide has, I believe, come before the Court in its present shape as a question *prima impressionis*, I do not think I am called upon to make any order as to costs.



25th March.

LA CONSTANCIA.

Where a bond of bottomry is given upon the ship alone, and another bond is likewise given upon the cargo only, demands

IN this case (reported *suprà*, p. 404) the Court decided that the two bonds upon the ship only should be paid out of the proceeds of the ship exclusively, and that the bond upon the cargo alone should be paid first out of the proceeds of the freight, and

These should be insufficient that the balance should be made good out of the cargo. The consignees of the cargo brought into the Registry the sum of £550, part of the value of the cargo, being the amount of the bond upon the cargo. They were about to bring in the amount of the freight, but, in the instance of the bondholders, they paid out of it a sum of £554 : 7s. 1d. to answer demands for pilotage, towage, and seamen's wages. The question was then on the 3rd of February, whether these claims for wages, pilotage, and towage, should fall upon the freight alone, or should be paid pro rata out of the proceeds of the ship and freight. The Court having then time to consider its judgment, the case now remains on for decision.

In arguing the case it was submitted by—

Addams for the consignees of the cargo.—That it is the settled law of the Court, where a bond was given upon the cargo, that the ship and freight must first be applied in satisfaction of the bond, and that there was no claim against the owners of the cargo until these funds were exhausted. This doctrine had been laid down by Lord Stowell in the case of the *Prince Regent*, and had been specially referred to and held by the Court in delivering its judgment when the case was last before the Court. That by its last decision the Court had already decided, that the two bonds upon the ship must look for payment to the proceeds of the ship only, and that the freight was to constitute the primary fund for the payment of the bond upon the cargo. How far would that decision be affected by granting the application now made on behalf of the bondholder upon the ship? The effect would be, that the former decision of the Court would

VOL. II.

1846.
25th March.

La
CONSTANCIA.

for pilotage,
towage and sea-
men's wages
must be satis-
fied pro rata out
of the proceeds
of the ship and
the freight.

An applica-
tion of the bond-
holder upon the
ship only, to
have these de-
mands satisfied
out of the pro-
ceeds of the
freight in the
first instance,
rejected.

1846.
25th March.
LA
CONSTANCIA.

in a great degree be rendered nugatory, because instead of the whole freight, minus its quota of these payments, going to the relief of the cargo by a strict appropriation of the proceeds to the bond upon the cargo, a great portion would be exhausted in favour of the bonds upon the ship. The practical result, therefore, would be a partial reversal of the former sentence of the Court. Relief would be given to the bondholder upon the ship instead of the owner of the cargo, and this, too, at the expense and out of the pocket of the owner of the cargo. That such an appropriation of the proceeds would be contrary to all principles of law or equity. By the law of the Court the ship and freight were rateably liable for the debts and expenses which had been incurred in the present instance. This had been laid down and acted upon by the Court in the case of the Dowthorpe, (2 Rob. jun. p. 75,) and there was nothing in the circumstances under which the application was made that could take the case out of the principle laid down by the Court in the case of the Dowthorpe.

Haggard for the holders of the bonds upon the ship.—The wages of the mariners constitute the larger portion of the demands which have been paid out of the freight in the present instance, and the law of this Court looks to the freight as the primary fund for the payment of such wages. In the case of the Juliana, 2 Dodson, p. 510, the doctrine is laid down by Lord Stowell in these words :—“ The mariner goes to sea upon the single security of the freight; his labours and perils have nothing else to trust to; if that goes, every thing goes; he has no step-father, if I may so say, in the character of insurer, to supply the loss.” If this be the doctrine of the Court upon

the high authority of Lord Stowell, it is clear that the demands in this case have *primâ facie* been satisfied out of the funds which could be most appropriately employed for the purpose. Is there anything in the circumstances of the case to induce the Court to interfere with the arrangement by which these demands have been satisfied? I submit there is not. On the contrary, a strong reason may be drawn in favour of the arrangement as it now stands, from the consequences which must fall upon the bondholders upon the ship if the Court should accede to the doctrine laid down upon the other side. What would be the effect? Why, that the holders of the first bond upon the ship must inevitably lose the whole of the money they have advanced. The Court exercises an equitable as well as a legal jurisdiction in these matters, and it would surely be contrary to all equity that this loss should be entailed upon the bondholder, when, by a proper marshalling of the assets, such a result might be avoided.

1846.
25th March.
LA
CONSTANCIA.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

The learned judge having adverted to the circumstances of the case, and having restated the law with respect to the bond upon the cargo only, to the effect laid down in his former judgment, (*vide supra*, page 405,) proceeded to observe:—In the existing state of things I have been compelled to go through these details in order that I might show the true principle of applying the proceeds, otherwise I could not say in what way the charges on the funds should be defrayed. I now come to the real question, viz. out of what fund are the wages, pilotage, and towage to be paid? I am asked to decree that these charges should be defrayed out of the freight solely. Why? For

1846.
25th March.

LA
CONSTANCIA.

what reason should I hold the ship exempted ? The ship *prima facie* is as much benefited by the services of the pilot and seamen as the freight. But I am desired so to exempt the ship, and to charge the freight exclusively, that I may rescue the holder of the first bond upon the ship from a total loss of the money which he has advanced ; and the holder of the second bond from a partial loss of his advances. I should be very desirous that this might be done, if it could be done with justice to other parties ; but what will be the consequence if I accede to the prayer of these bondholders ? Why the owner of the cargo must be the sufferer. I cannot relieve the former without taking from the latter. The owner of the cargo can never be affected by any bond of bottomry until the ship and freight are exhausted, and he ought never to be made liable for wages, pilotage, and towage directly. This I am called upon to do indirectly in the present instance, by making the decree as prayed for. I know of no principle of equity that would justify me in making such a decree. If the interests of the bondholders were alone concerned, and the ship, freight and cargo belonged to one individual, some such principle might possibly be found, and I might make him who had a treble security upon ship, freight, and cargo, resort to the cargo, in order that others who had a security upon one, viz. the ship only, might be paid. That is not the state of the case here. The intermediate bond is on the cargo alone. The peculiar interest of the owner of the cargo intervenes, and that interest I am bound to protect. His interest is, that the proceeds of the ship and freight should be rateably applied to the discharge of liens which legally fall upon them in the first instance : next, that the two bonds upon the ship should be paid out of the

naining proceeds of the ship, and then all other
hands which may stand in pari conditione. The
ult then is, that £554 : 7s. 1d., the amount of the
ges, pilotage, and towage, must first be paid rate-
y out of the gross freight (£794 : 2s.) and the pro-
ds of the ship (£499 : 2s. 4d.); the effect will be
t £285 : 1s. 2d. will be left to pay the bond of the
1 of April, and £453 : 3s. 10d., the balance of the
ight, to pay the bond on the cargo before the cargo
esorted to.

1846.
25th March.

LA
CONSTANCIA.

Before this judgment was delivered an application
s made by *Dr. Jenner*, on behalf of the owners or
signees of the silver which had been sold at Bahia,
iming to be repaid in preference to the bondholders
any other creditors the amount of the silver which
d been sold. The learned judge, after intimating
opinion that the claim in question was more pro-
rly a question of average, directed the matter to
nd over for further argument, stating that he would
t order the proceeds to be paid out of the Registry
til the prayer had been argued and considered.



THE OCEAN. WARD.

N this case, reported supra, page 429, two bonds
of bottomry were referred generally to the Re-
strar and merchants to report thereon.

Upon the 11th of March the Registrar and mer-
ants reported, that upon the two bonds in question
ere was due to Mr. Hall, the bondholder, the sum
£629 : 13s. 7d., together with interest at 4 per
nt. from the 26th of July, 1844, when the bonds
came due, until payment thereof. In this report

28th May.

Objection to the
report of the
Registrar and
merchants in
a cause of bot-
tomry in part
sustained.

Where the
bondholder had
bought up the
debts of certain
creditors upon
the ship, at a
discount of £50
per cent., the

1846.
28th May.

THE OCEAN.
bondholder not
at liberty to
convert them
into a lien upon
the ship, by re-
paying himself
out of monies
advanced by
him upon bot-
tomry.

Allowance of
the Registrar
and merchants,
that such debts
should be in-
cluded in the
bond and the
amount of the
sums actually
paid for them,
overruled, and
the claim di-
rected to be
struck out.

the Registrar and merchants allowed Mr. Hall the debts which he had purchased of the ship's creditors at Sydney, to the amount of the sums which he had actually paid; they also allowed the maritime interest at 35 per cent., together with the 10 per cent commission charged upon the receipts and disbursements of the vessel on the homeward voyage.

This report was objected to on behalf of the mortgagee, and the objections were argued by

Harding for the mortgagee.

Addams and *Robinson*, contrà.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

When this case was last before the Court I expressed my opinion that the entire case was surrounded with circumstances of very great suspicion. I therefore adopted the course of referring to the Registrar and merchants the whole of the accounts, in order that they might investigate and ascertain what were the real sums advanced by Mr. Hall, what the payments he had made, and what balance was due to Mr. Hall, upon which a bond of bottomry could legally be taken. It is obvious that in all questions of this kind this mode of referring the accounts for investigation is of great importance in informing the ultimate judgment of the Court, more especially as regards the question of costs. Suppose, for instance, a very considerable sum is claimed under the bond in issue, and that claim is, after a long litigation, cut down and reduced to a very small amount. In such a case the bondholder, I apprehend, would have no right to demand at the hands of the Court the costs of that litigation, which was occasioned by the great-

ness of his overcharge. Again, the investigation is of importance in another point of view, viz. that the Registrar and merchants, by their experience in mercantile matters, might elicit and detect a multitude of errors, and, in some cases, even a falsification in the charges, proving that a system of fraud has been pursued by the asserted bondholder in his dealings with the vessel; in which case the Court would not pronounce for a single sixpence. In the present instance the Registrar and merchants have made their report in the usual form, and their report having been objected to by the mortgagee of the vessel, I have now to consider the effect of the objections which have been raised. The first and most important question is, whether Mr. Hall, having purchased, at less than their real amount, certain debts contracted for the service of the ship, is entitled to recover under the bond executed at Sydney the sums of money which he actually did pay to the creditors on account of such debts. It has not been contended upon the present occasion, that Mr. Hall is entitled to the whole nominal amount of these debts: his claim is now limited to the sums actually paid by him to the creditors in consideration of the transfer of their debts. The question then arises whether, in point of law, the transfer of such debts by the original creditors conveyed to Mr. Hall any power to convert them into a lien upon the ship itself, by repaying himself the amount out of monies advanced by him upon a bond of bottomry. I well recollect the observations which I made upon this point when the case was last before me; and in making those observations I had in view the case of the *Augusta*, decided by Lord Stowell, and reported in the 4th volume of Dodson's Reports, p. 283. Looking to the principle laid down

1846.
28th May.
THE OCEAN.

1846.
28th May.

THE OCEAN.

by the very eminent judge who decided that case, I have no hesitation in saying, that Mr. Hall was not at liberty to make any such conversion. It has been said in the course of the argument, if a person may advance money upon bottomry for the payment of debts due to other creditors, why may he not do so with regard to his own claims against the vessel? The reason is obvious, viz. that it would lead to a course of dealing with the vessel which would open a door to every description of fraud, and would, moreover, be subversive of the foundation upon which the law of bottomry is based. Another observation was also thrown out in the argument,—that in preventing Mr. Hall from including the debts of the original creditors amongst the allowed items in the bond, the Court was straining against him the principle laid down in the *Augusta* to an extent that is contrary to the course of justice and equity: I cannot admit the truth or propriety of such an argument. In purchasing the debts Mr. Hall put himself into the place of the original creditors; and his right to recover those debts must be the same as was possessed by the creditors themselves, viz. by a proceeding against the owners or the person who contracted the debts on personal credit originally. I am clearly of opinion that I must refer back the report to the Registrar and merchants to have these items struck out altogether. The next objection which has been taken is, that the Registrar's report is not sufficiently specific as to the reasonableness of the 10 per cent. charged for commission upon the receipts and disbursements of the vessel on her homeward voyage. This objection may, I think, be very shortly disposed of by the simple answer, that the report is made in the usual form, and that it is not the general course for the Re-

gistrar and merchants to specify that such a claim is reasonable or just: they allow the claim generally, thereby expressing by implication that they have deliberated upon the claim, and have satisfied themselves that it is not unreasonable. The objection upon this part of the report must be overruled.

I have now to consider, in conclusion, the general validity of the bonds in question. With respect to the larger and primary bond executed at Sydney, I think that I am bound to pronounce for its validity; at the same time I cannot express my opinion in too strong terms as to the difficulties that Mr. Hall has thrown in the way of his own case. When I look at the letters written by Mr. Hall in Mr. Rostrom's name after the bankruptcy of Mr. Rostrom, and when I consider the species of veil that has been thrown over the whole transaction, I am satisfied in my own mind, that the opposition which has been offered in these proceedings has been fully justified; and that those interested in the ship did perfectly right in requiring that the justice and truth of the bonds in issue should be thoroughly sifted in this Court. With respect to the bond executed at Pernambuco, I confess that I at first felt much more difficulty; and the difficulty which pressed upon me was this, not that Mr. Hall was indebted to the ship to the amount of £45, his passage money from Sydney, but that whilst the vessel was at Pernambuco he had in his possession on account of the ship bills for £240, said by the Registrar to be good bills, drawn upon parties in London. These bills, I naturally conceived, might have been negotiable at Pernambuco to the full extent of the ship's necessities; and if so, it is clear that I should not have been at liberty to pronounce for the validity of this bond. I am now informed that

1846.
28th May.
THE OCEAN.

1842.
28th May.

THE OCEAN.

these bills, not having been accepted, were not negotiable at Pernambuco: this fact of course alters my view of the case, and removes the difficulty. I do not think the doubtful circumstance, as to whether Mr. Hall ought to have paid his passage money prior to the sailing of the vessel from Sydney, is sufficient to operate against this bond.

I therefore pronounce for both the bonds, subject to the deductions to which I have referred. With respect to the costs, after much deliberation upon the subject, I have come to the conclusion that it is my duty to give costs on neither side: I make no order as to costs.

10th June.

A claim of salvage set up by a steam tug dismissed, and the alleged salvors condemned in the costs of the proceedings, upon the ground that by their own misconduct they had run the vessel into difficulty and danger, by towing her aground upon the Sandwich Flats.

THE DUKE OF MANCHESTER. MURRAY.

THIS was a cause of salvage, promoted by the owners, master and crew of the steam tug the Copeland, for alleged services rendered to this vessel in getting her off the Goodwin Sand, and towing her up to London upon the 17th December last.

Two other actions were also entered for salvage services arising out of the same transaction; the one was entered on behalf of the owners, masters and crews of the lugger Vampire and the galley Triumph of Deal; the other on behalf of the owners, masters and crews of the luggers United Friends and Friends Goodwill of Ramsgate.

The acts on petition of the several salvors, in substance pleaded, "that the vessel was discovered about 4 o'clock p.m. of the 13th December aground upon the Goodwin Sand; whereupon the Triumph and the Vampire, having put off to her assistance, their services were accepted, and the Triumph was

despatched by the master to Ramsgate to procure the aid of a steamer. That the Copeland, then lying at anchor in Ramsgate Hole, immediately went off, and at half past 9 p.m. came up with the Duke of Manchester, and found her at such time stranded mid way between the Gull Light Vessel and the North Sand Head, with her best bower anchor and chain cable out, and thumping and striking heavily upon the sand. That with great difficulty and exertion, and at the imminent risk of life and property, the master of the steamer succeeded in gradually dragging the vessel off the sand, and sheering her head round into deep water, when he took her in tow, and was proceeding to tow her into the Downs; but in consequence of the damaged condition of the rudder the Duke of Manchester would not answer her helm, and in her progress to the Downs steered on towards the shore, and again took the ground upon the Sandwich Flats, where she continued fixed until about 12 a.m. of the 15th of December. That during the interval every exertion was made by the several salvors for the safety and preservation of the vessel, and about noon of the 15th the ship, having been lightened of a large portion of her cargo by the crews of the several boats, she was hauled off the sand by the Copeland, and towed in safety into the Downs. That on the following day she was towed to Southend, where she anchored for the night, and upon the 17th she was brought into the West India Docks, where she arrived at about half past 2 p.m."

The answer given in on behalf of the owners of the Duke of Manchester in substance alleged:—That the services of the smaller boats were confined to the mere lightening of the ship, and conveying on shore the portions of the cargo taken out of the vessel, and

1846.
10th June.
THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

1846.
10th June.
THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

that at the time their services were engaged the boatmen were expressly told that they were not to be employed as salvors, but were to be paid pro opere et labore. That the Duke of Manchester was extricated from the Goodwin Sand, not by the exertion of the steamer, but by the influence of the tide. That the vessel whilst upon the sand was in no danger of being lost, and that no risk of loss of life or property was incurred by the master and crew of the Copeland. That when she got off the Goodwin Sand the Duke of Manchester had sustained no damage, and that her subsequent injuries were occasioned by the gross negligence and misconduct of the steamer in towing her out of her proper course to the Downs, and running her aground on the Sandwich Flats. That by reason of the premises the owners were entitled to be dismissed from further observance of justice in the suit.

The case was argued by

Addams and Bayford for the Copeland.

Phillimore and Jenner for the Triumph.

Haggard and Robinson for the United Friends and Friends Goodwill.

Queen's Advocate and Harding for the owners.

The Court was assisted by Trinity Masters.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

Gentlemen,—The part of this case upon which I shall have to request the benefit of your opinion is confined to the claim which is set up by the owners and crew of the Copeland. With respect to the

smaller vessels, their claims involve no question of nautical skill, risk, or danger beyond such as the Court is in the daily habit of deciding by its own unassisted judgment. You will therefore dismiss the smaller vessels entirely from your consideration. The case of the Copeland embraces two distinct questions: 1st, What were the services she performed whilst the Duke of Manchester was upon the Goodwin Sand, and how far those services were essential to the getting her off? 2ndly, What was done by her at a subsequent period in attempting to conduct her into the Downs? The statement on behalf of the Copeland is, that the Duke of Manchester, having got upon the Goodwin Sand during the afternoon of the 13th December, the master despatched a small vessel to crave the assistance of a steamer, and the Copeland in consequence of that summons went to her assistance. Let us consider, in the first instance, what was the degree of danger in which the Duke of Manchester was placed, what were the measures pursued by the Copeland, and whether those measures were successful in getting the vessel off the sand, or whether she ultimately came off by the flowing of the tide. I will here refer you to the affidavit of Richard Sheresby, the master of the Copeland, so far as it relates to this division of the subject. He states, "that he directed the steam tug to be steered in different directions to endeavour to find the said vessel (the tug's crew feeling the way with the lead), when, about half past 9 p.m., a light was descried at a short distance from the tug; whereupon the Copeland was steered towards it, and, on approaching near thereto, it was found to proceed from some lighted coals hanging over the side of the Duke of Manchester, and it was then ascertained that the said vessel had gone on the sand

1846.
10th June.
THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

1846.
10th June.

THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

midway between the Gull Light Vessel and the North Sand Head, and was at such time there stranded, with her best bower anchor and chain cable out, and which had been let go on the edge of the sand on her first striking thereon, and that the said vessel was moreover striking and thumping heavily on the sand by reason of the heavy sea then running." He then goes on to say, "that in the course of about half an hour, and after great difficulty and many ineffectual attempts, the Copeland was placed in such a position to windward of the Duke of Manchester that a line was hove on board, whereby two hawsers, one six inch and the other seven inch, were passed from the Duke of Manchester to the Copeland; that the said hawsers were made fast to the towing hooks on board the Copeland; and (I now come to an averment to which I must invite your very particular attention) that during this operation the steam tug pitched in such a frightful manner that the lives of all on board her were exposed to the most imminent danger.

Now, gentlemen, I do not mean to detain you by reciting from this affidavit all the details which follow this averment, as to the repeated breaking of the hawsers, or the various attempts that were made to drag the vessel off the sand. I must, however, again direct your particular attention to another averment, with which the affidavit of this witness concludes; it is in these words:—"he lastly made oath, that, had it not have been for the services of the Copeland, the Duke of Manchester, with her cargo, must have been inevitably lost; and that the steamer herself, as also the lives of the deponent and the rest of the crew on board thereof, were exposed to the greatest and most imminent danger in rendering the services aforesaid, inasmuch as if the steam tug Copeland had touched

the sand she must have gone to pieces by reason of the great weight of her machinery, and probably every soul on board would have perished."

I need not point out to you, gentlemen, that the two main ingredients in all salvage services are, 1st, the danger to which the property is exposed; 2ndly, the danger encountered by the salvors in the rescue of that property. Upon these two particulars depends the measure of the compensation to be awarded. If then, in answer to certain questions which I am about to put, you shall be of opinion that the Duke of Manchester, whilst upon the sand, was, according to the statement of the witness, in imminent danger of being lost, the first ingredient will be established. The second ingredient will depend upon your further judgment, whether the services of the Copeland were such as are described, and whether they were attended by that degree of risk and peril which is most explicitly averred in this affidavit. You have all the evidence before you, and you have not only carefully read that evidence yourselves, but have heard it very elaborately discussed by the learned counsel who have argued the case. You are consequently well aware of the contradictions which exist in the respective statements on the one side and on the other. I shall therefore leave this part of the case to your decision, by proposing to you the following questions:—First, was the Duke of Manchester, whilst she remained upon the Goodwin Sand, in imminent danger of being lost? Secondly, were the measures pursued by the Copeland to get her off the sand the proper measures to be adopted? Thirdly, was the vessel actually got off the sand by means of these measures? Fourthly, was the service performed by the Copeland attended with any great degree of danger to that vessel and her crew?

1846.
10th June.
THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

1846.
10th June.

THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

I have framed these questions with the view of embracing all the points which can be properly submitted to you upon this part of the case. I have framed them after much consideration upon the subject; and although I shall not put it to you to consider what is the amount of the remuneration to be allotted, I need scarcely say, that in fixing that remuneration my final award will be most materially influenced by the result of the answers which you shall return upon these several points. I should, I confess, feel very considerably relieved if the case terminated here; but I regret to say there remains another question to be considered, involving much greater difficulty and much graver consequences to the parties who are interested in this case, viz. what was done at a subsequent period in attempting to conduct this vessel into the Downs? It appears that after the vessel was got off the Goodwin Sand, whether she was got off by the aid of the steamer or whether she floated off with the tide it remains to be shown, the steamer was directed to take her in tow towards the Downs; that she proceeded to tow her in accordance with this direction, and that the Duke of Manchester was again run aground upon the Sandwich Flats. Now it strikes me, subject to your better judgment, that the course to the Downs must have been so well known to all the persons on board the Duke of Manchester, and to the persons on board the steamer and the smaller vessels which attended her, that it is almost impossible to suppose the vessel would have taken a directly different course and gone upon the Sandwich Flats, unless from the extraordinary state of the weather, or from the damaged condition of the vessel, or from the fault of the steamer or of the pilot on board the Duke of Manchester: I mean to say that it could

it have been purely accidental. It will be for you determine hereafter to which of these causes the cond grounding of the Duke of Manchester upon the Sandwich Flats is to be attributed; but before I oppose to you the questions which I intend to put, I ust first state very briefly two propositions of law hich, it appears to me, are immediately connected ith the consideration of this part of the case.

In the first place it is, I apprehend, an undoubted oposition, that salvors may be curtailed or even prived altogether of their salvage remuneration rough error, misconduct, or want of skill and capaty in the performance of a salvage service. Even here essential services have been rendered to a vessel, the subsequent misconduct of the salvor may not only minish the amount of his reward, but his entire aim may be forfeited. This doctrine was distinctly id down by Lord Stowell in the case of the Medina, hich was cited by the Queen's Advocate; and in the se of the Neptune (*a*), which came before me, and which I was assisted by two gentlemen of the Trinity Board, I myself acted upon this doctrine, and elined to give any salvage at all, the Trinity Masters having pronounced that the asserted salvors had en guilty of gross negligence, if not of wilful careness, in allowing the anchor to be let go, and in eeping the course of the ship to the north when they ould have gone to the south.

I will now state another proposition of law which is a most important bearing upon the present conderation, and I will state it clearly, that if I am rong my statement may be examined elsewhere and rectred,—that proposition is, that where a steamer, in the present instance, is towing a vessel with a

1846.
10th June.

THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

(*a*) 1 Rob. jun. 297.

1846.
10th June.

THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

licensed pilot on board, the steamer is not relieved from the responsibility of watching the course which the licensed pilot pursues. If she finds to a certainty that the course pursued by the pilot will lead the vessel into danger and destruction, it is the duty of the steamer to make the circumstance known to the master of the vessel, that he may take such measures as may be necessary under the circumstances of the case; it is not for the steamer to maintain a sulky silence and make herself instrumental in the destruction of life and property. It is the more necessary that this proposition should be clearly defined and distinctly understood in the present instance, because it has been contended in the argument, that the Duke of Manchester being in charge of a licensed pilot, the only duty of the steamer was to follow up the course which the pilot directed; that she had nothing to do with that course, whether it was right or wrong, and was not bound to interfere to prevent the consequence of steering in a wrong direction.

In support of this argument the case of the Duke of Sussex was cited; and I must now refer to that case in order to point out not only to you, but to the learned counsel and the practitioners in this Court, what were the principles laid down by me in that case, and how far they are applicable in the present instance. The action in that case was brought on behalf of her Majesty, in her office of Admiralty, against a steam-vessel which had a merchant vessel in tow, that vessel being at the time in charge of a licensed pilot. In rounding Cookham Point in the river Medway, the merchant vessel came into collision with the *Thalia*, which was lying at anchor, and the Crown proceeded against the steamer as the party to blame. The defence of the steamer was two-fold:—1st. That the collision was accidental; 2ndly. That a licensed

lot was on board the merchant vessel, and that the conduct of the steamer was under his immediate direction and control. In delivering my judgment I expressed my opinion in these words :—" In point of law, I am of opinion, that the responsibility for the navigation of the Chieftain did not rest with the master or the pilot who proceeded against, but with the pilot who was in charge of the Chieftain." After stating my reasons for this opinion, which it is unnecessary for me here to repeat in detail, in conclusion of my judgment I expressed myself in these words :—" If it could appear that there has been *no error or negligence* on board the steamer, and that the orders of the master were *properly* executed, I must hold the owners exonerated from the consequences of the accident." The two gentlemen from the Trinity House, by whom I was assisted, pronounced that there was *no default* on the part of the steamer: I consequently decided in favour of the steamer, and dismissed the case. But what was the main and real ingredient in that decision? Why, that there was *no error or neglect* on the part of the steamer. I never laid down the doctrine, that under all circumstances it was the duty of the steamer not to interfere, and that the pilot was the only person upon whom the responsibility rested.

In the case of the Diana (in which case my judgment was confirmed by the Judicial Committee) I distinctly laid down the contrary principle. In that case the pilot on board had been grossly negligent of his duty, and the master and mate of the vessel had given up the entire management of the vessel to the pilot, and were diverting themselves in the cabin below when the collision occurred. I held in that case, that the collision was occasioned by the joint misconduct of

1846.
10th June.

THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

1846.
10th June.
THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

the pilot, the master and the mate of the Diana, and that the owners were responsible for such misconduct. It is, I conceive, the duty of the master to observe the conduct of the pilot, and in the case of palpable incompetency, whether arising from intoxication or ignorance or any other cause, to interpose his authority for the preservation of the property of his employers. In such a case the vessel and lives of the crew are not to be risked because there is a law which, under ordinary circumstances, imposes the responsibility upon the pilot. So in the case of a steamer which has a vessel in tow with a licensed pilot on board, if the master of that steamer sees that the pilot is incompetent to direct the course of the vessel, is he blindly to follow his orders and allow a valuable property, and still more valuable lives, to be imperilled ? I never laid down such a proposition. I now come to the questions which I have to propose for your consideration upon the latter part of this case. They are as follow :—First, Was the grounding upon the Sandwich Flats occasioned by the state of the weather, or the disabled condition of the Duke of Manchester ? Secondly, Could this stranding have been prevented by ordinary skill and vigilance ? Thirdly, Was there on the part of the Copeland gross negligence and want of skill ? And, lastly, Did she knowingly allow the ship to run into danger ? The law will rest with me, but my decision will depend upon the answers which I receive from you. I think, therefore, it will be expedient that we should adjourn for the purpose of considering these points.

The learned judge having consulted with the Trinity Masters in the Inner Hall, upon resuming his seat proceeded to observe,—

The answers of the Trinity Masters upon the ques-

ions I proposed to them in this cause are to this effect :—

1st. We do not think the Duke of Manchester whilst upon the Goodwin Sands was in the perilous situation described by the owners of the Copeland. She grounded during the last quarter ebb, and never had less than ten feet of water alongside; provided therefore she remained staunch and tight there was every reasonable prospect that the next tide setting to the N.N.E., from half-flood to half-ebb, would have carried her into deep water.

The second and third questions are thus answered together :—We do not think that the attempted operation of jerking the ship off the sand was calculated to effect any other result than that which occurred, viz. the repeated breaking of the hawsers; and to this cause must be ascribed the parting of the Duke of Manchester's bower chain. Further, it does not appear to us that the Copeland had hold of the Duke of Manchester at the time she came off the sand, but that she subsequently took her in tow. Fourthly, we do not consider that the Copeland during the operations in question was exposed to the danger alleged in these proceedings. Upon the second division of the Copeland's case, the questions which I proposed are answered in these words :—We think that the getting on the Sandwich Flats was not occasioned by the state of the weather or the disabled condition of the ship. We are decidedly of opinion, that the stranding of the vessel might have been prevented by ordinary care and skill; and that there was on the part of the Copeland great and culpable negligence and disregard of duty.

In the opinions thus expressed by the gentlemen of the Trinity Board I entirely concur; and I further

1846.
10th June.

THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.

1846.
10th June.

**THE DUKE OF
MANCHESTER.**

think, that, in addition to a neglect of her own duty, the Copeland was guilty of a great breach of all moral obligation in persisting in the course which she took, without giving warning to the persons on board the Duke of Manchester. In my judgment that culpability is not in the slightest degree diminished by any error which might have been committed by the pilot on board the Duke of Manchester, because it is impossible, as I conceive, that the steamer could have been misled by any directions given by him, or could have believed that the course was the proper or due course. Under these circumstances, I feel it my duty to pronounce against the claim, and with costs.

The remainder of the case may be very shortly disposed of. With respect to the Triumph and the Vampire, I shall give the following sums,—£5 to each of the vessels, £10 to Baker, and £5 to each of the men. With respect to the luggers, the United Friends and Friends Goodwill, I shall award the sum of £60 to both vessels, and the costs.

NOTE.—This decision was appealed to the Judicial Committee, and the sentence of this Court was affirmed, with costs.

28th July.

A vessel sailing upon a dark night with her studding sails set, and not porting her helm in time, condemned in the damages.

THE SWITZERLAND. KNIGHT.

THIS was a cause of collision promoted by the owner of the Juno, a Swedish brig, against this vessel, her tackle, &c.

The collision took place between Start Point and Portland Bill, during the night of the 26th June last, the Juno at the time beating down channel

close hauled on the larboard tack, and the Switzerland coming up channel with the wind five points free, and her studding sails set.

On the part of the Juno it was alleged, that it was the duty of the Switzerland to give way, but she continued her course; and when the two vessels were close together, and a collision was inevitable, the Juno, with a view of lessening the damage, put her helm aport.

The answer on the part of the Switzerland averred, that in consequence of the extreme darkness of the night, it was impossible for the crew of the Switzerland to see the Juno until she was close ahead on the starboard bow. That she made every endeavour to get out of the way; and that the collision was occasioned by the Juno porting her helm instead of keeping her course as she was bound to have done.

The case was argued before Trinity Masters by

Queen's Advocate and *Bayford* for the Juno.

Addams and *Twiss* for the Switzerland.

JUDGMENT.—Dr. Lushington.

Gentlemen,—The question in this case arises between two foreign vessels, the one being a Swedish brig of 131 tons burthen, bound on a voyage from Stockholm to Viana in Portugal; the other, the vessel proceeded against, being an American ship of 567 tons, and bound from New York to London. The collision is admitted to have taken place shortly after midnight on the 26th June last, somewhere between Portland Bill and Start Point; and it is also further admitted that the Switzerland was proceeding at the time up channel with the wind five points free.

1846.
28th July.
THE
SWITZERLAND.

1846.
28th July.
THE
SWITZERLAND.

This, gentlemen, you will observe, is her own statement; it is therefore, I apprehend, altogether unnecessary for us to take into the consideration what has been made a matter of dispute in the case, viz. whether the wind was W.S.W. as alleged by the Juno, or whether it was S.W. by S. to S.W. as stated by the Switzerland. There is also a further admission with respect to the state of the weather, that the night was overcast with drizzling rain, although the degree of the darkness is somewhat controverted. The Juno, it appears, was sailing on the larboard tack, close hauled, and, according to the statement, she had a light in the foreshrouds. This averment is, I think, fully substantiated by the evidence in the cause; it is further alleged that the Juno observed the Switzerland two points on her weather bow, and hailed her to keep her luff; and that at such time the Switzerland had her studding sails set. I know not, gentlemen, how far this fact may or may not be of importance in the consideration of this case. If it is a fact important to the issue in the cause, it is my duty to direct you to form your opinion upon the assumption that the studding sails were set as stated. It is distinctly alleged by the Juno in the act on petition, and I find no denial in the answer on the part of the Switzerland. The persons on board the latter vessel must have known what sails they were carrying; and if this were a matter of importance, it was their duty to have met the averment set forth in the act on petition. In the practice of this Court a fact which is so stated in plea and is not denied must be taken as an admitted fact in the case. The Juno further goes on to state, that after having hailed the ship to keep her luff, the ship not altering her course, and a collision being in-

vitable, the brig's helm was put to port, for the purpose of lessening the force of the blow, and almost immediately afterwards the ship, with her starboard bow, struck the brig on her larboard bow.

What on the other hand is the statement set forth by the owners of the Switzerland. They allege, in the first place, that no ship or vessel of any description carrying a light was visible at the period in question; at the same time they admit that a ship close hauled on the larboard tack was descried, and that one of the mariners called out "Sail on the starboard bow." That owing to the intense darkness of the night the discovery of the vessel in question was not made until so late a period, that no other measure could be adopted than that of putting the helm astarboard, which was done accordingly, the crew of the Switzerland at the same time hailing the brig to keep her course. That instead of keeping her course as directed, the brig immediately put her helm aport, and the stern of the brig struck the starboard side of the ship. The answer to the act then concludes with the averment, that had the Juno kept her course the Switzerland would have gone clear under the brig; and that the collision was entirely occasioned by the want of a good look out, and of proper skill and management on the part of the persons on board the Juno. Such, gentlemen, is the blame which is attributed by the Switzerland to the Juno; and how far this blame is rightly imputed must, I apprehend, depend upon the degree of necessity which existed to compel the brig to put her helm aport. It was not, I conceive, her duty to have adopted this measure, unless compelled by necessity; but I also conceive, that if in your opinion a necessity did exist, and that it was the only measure which could be adopted to diminish

1846.
28th July.

THE
SWITZERLAND.

1846.
28th July.

THE
SWITZERLAND.

the force of the collision, in that case the Juno will be legally absolved from blame. With respect to this part of the case therefore, gentlemen, you will have the goodness to favour me with your opinion, whether the Juno, in putting her helm aport, did so under the circumstances to which I have adverted, or whether she did so unnecessarily and rashly, and in violation of the rules of navigation. With regard to the Switzerland, you will likewise favour me with your opinion, whether, looking to the darkness of the night, she was justified in sailing with her studding sails set; and whether, under the circumstances of the case, she could have put her helm aport at an earlier period, and could thereby have avoided the collision? With these observations, I will now leave the question to your consideration.

Trinity Masters.

We are of opinion that the Juno acted perfectly right, that the collision occurred from the Switzerland not giving way in time and passing under the stern of the Juno, as she was bound to have done. The brig put her helm aport merely to diminish the force of the collision, and at the moment there was no alternative but to put it up. Had the Switzerland struck her amidships, in all probability the damages in the present instance would have been aggravated by the addition of the loss of life.

Per Curiam.

In this opinion I fully and entirely concur, and must accordingly pronounce for the damage; and I cannot dismiss the case without expressing my great satisfaction at the expedition with which the pro-

ceedings in the cause have been conducted throughout.

The collision took place upon the 26th of June, the suit was commenced upon the 13th of July, and upon the 28th of July the decision of the Court has been pronounced. It is a matter very advantageous to all parties, and especially to foreigners, as in this case, when suits of this description can be so speedily arranged.

1846.
28th July.

THE
SWITZERLAND.

LA CONSTANCIA. MONRO.

28th July.

WHEN this case was last before the Court (*vide supra*, p. 460) an application was made on behalf of the consignees of some silver, which formed part of the cargo, and which had been sold by the master at Rio Janerio, for the repairs of the ship, claiming to be repaid the amounts of the silver so sold, in preference to the bondholders or any other claimants, upon the proceeds of the ship and cargo.

The Court directed the application to stand over for argument, and the question was now argued by

Jenner and *Bayford* for the consignees of the silver.

Addams and *Haggard* for the bondholders.

The argument in support of the application was rested upon the grounds—that the various transactions respecting the bottomry bonds, and the forced sale of the silver, were to be regarded as French

Where portions of the cargo on board a ship are sold by the master during the voyage for the repairs of the ship, the owners of such cargo have no lien upon the ship, nor any persona standing to sue the owners in the Court of Admiralty.

The property so sacrificed is to be considered as the proper subject of general average, over which the Court of Admiralty has no jurisdiction.

1846.
28th July.

LA
CONSTANCIA.

transactions, and were to be decided by the application of the law of France. That by the maritime law of France the consignees or owners of property, sold under the circumstances of the case, possessed a lien upon the ship in preference to bondholders or any other class of creditors; and this lien attached to the consignees of the silver in the present instance. That, even by the law of this country, the owners of property so sold would have an equitable lien upon the ship towards whose preservation the property had been exclusively applied, and such lien would entitle them, at all events, to come in pari passu with the bondholders, and share in the distribution of the proceeds of the ship and cargo. That this principle was acknowledged in the maritime courts of the United States, and had been acted upon by Mr. Justice Story in the case of the Packet, 3 Mason, 255. That unless the consignees of the silver were so allowed to come upon the proceeds in the Registry, they would, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, be left altogether without a remedy, inasmuch that the only other alternative would be to proceed against the owners individually; and such owners, in the present instance, were foreigners and residing abroad.

On the part of the bondholders,—The application of the French law was denied, and it was contended, that the question in point of fact and in law resolved itself entirely and exclusively into a question of average, which the Court had no jurisdiction to entertain under the circumstances of the case.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

The question in this case relates to a claim which is preferred by the owners or consignees of some

silver sold at Rio de Janeiro, in order to repair certain damages sustained by the vessel whilst on her voyage from Lima to this country. This claim is preferred, not against the proceeds of the ship or the freight only, but also against a certain sum of money which has been paid into the Registry to meet a bond of bottomry upon the cargo. The claim is contested by the holders of three several bottomry bonds; and it has, I must say, been brought forward at a very late period in the suit. I do not, however, consider that the delay is alone sufficient to debar the claimants from their right of resorting to this Court; because I apprehend that, until a final decree is actually made, the Court is bound to consider every claim against any fund in Court, however those funds may have been brought in. As far as my own experience extends, no claim of a similar description is to be found in the annals of this Court, a circumstance which naturally induces me to consider with some carefulness, whether the novelty of the claim be specious or real; in other words, whether, although novel in appearance, it does not rest upon some recognized principles by which other claims have been decided. What then is the true character of the claim in question? It is a claim on behalf of the owners of certain property shipped on board the vessel, and applied to relieve the ship's necessities, and to enable her to complete her voyage. In the case of the *Gratitudine* Lord Stowell has held, that property so sacrificed is to be considered as the proper subject of general average; and Lord Tenterden, in his book on shipping, lays down the same doctrine in the following words: "It is the same thing to the merchant whose goods are taken from his control, whether they are sold

1846.
28th July.
LA
CONSTANCIA.

1846.
28th July.

LA
CONSTANCIA.

or thrown into the sea; in either case it is a sacrifice submitted to by him for the benefit of all, and which ought therefore to be made good by general contribution," that is, by general average. If this be so, and if upon the authority of my Lord Stowell, thus confirmed by my Lord Tenterden, I am to consider this claim as a subject of general average, two considerations immediately suggest themselves,—first, whether I have any jurisdiction at all over questions of general average? and, secondly, whether I could satisfactorily exercise such a jurisdiction under the circumstances of the case? The absence of any precedent where the Court has exercised the jurisdiction is of itself a strong *prima facie* proof that I have no authority to entertain the question at all, and I am the more strongly inclined to this opinion by the further consideration, that in all cases of average it is essential that the tribunal which is to adjust it, should have the power to compel all parties interested to come in and pay their quota. I possess no such power; and if I could not bring all parties interested before the Court, I could not adjust a general average, which is a proportionate contribution by all. The authority of Mr. Justice Story, in the case which was cited in the argument, deservedly high as it is, cannot affect my decision in the present instance, and for this reason, that the Courts of Admiralty in the United States and in our American provinces have been allowed to exercise a jurisdiction which this Court, after the decisions in the courts of common law, would not venture to entertain. Again, the case which was before Mr. Justice Story was widely different in its circumstances from the present case. In that case the whole proceeds of the ship, cargo and freight were in

the Registry of the Admiralty Court at the time. In this case the Court has in its possession the proceeds of the ship and the balance of the freight, after payment of wages and divers demands, and a sum of £1,550, part of the value of the cargo, specially brought in to answer the demand of one bondholder against the cargo: his bond being the only bond that does attach upon the cargo. What the amount of the remainder of the cargo may be I know not; but this I do know, that it is not in the hands of the Court, and it has not been even suggested in the argument, that the Court is possessed of any power or authority to compel it to be brought in, in order to render it amenable to general contribution, that is, to a general average. Under such a state of circumstances to decree this demand to be paid out of the funds in Court would not be general average, or any thing like it. General average, as I have already observed, is a proportionate contribution by all, and that could not be accomplished on the present occasion. I have considered the question thus far upon the principle, that in acceding to the prayer made on behalf of the owners of this silver, I should not be causing justice to be done in the way of general average. I must now refer to another consideration, upon which it is contended that a decree in conformity with the prayer may be supported, viz. that the owners of the silver have a lien upon the property prior to all the bottomry bonds, and indeed to all other demands whatever. According to the law of this Court, I conceive that such a proposition cannot be sustained for one single moment. By that law wages only, and some few demands of equal urgency, can take precedence of bonds of bottomry. But it is said that this lien is

1846.
28th July.
LA
CONSTANCIA.

1846.
28th July.

LA
CONSTANTIA.

given to them by the law of France, and that the application of the silver and the bottomry contracts are to be considered as French transactions, and are to be governed by the law of France. Now, independently of all other considerations, as for instance, whether it would or would not be a very mischievous principle to introduce, can I administer any other law than the law of this Court? I apprehend not. The principle which obtains, not only in this country, but in all other countries where principle is understood, is, that whoever sues in a court of law, be he foreigner or native, can only claim that remedy which the court in which he sues is in the habit of giving to all suitors according to the law it usually administers. If he proves his case to that remedy he is entitled. It is very important to bear in mind the difference between construing a contract according to foreign law, and administering a remedy by foreign law. But how stand the facts of the present case in reference to the proposition in question? The vessel is a Peruvian vessel, and all the transactions took place at Rio de Janeiro. Rio, therefore, is the locus contractus, if locality has any bearing upon the question. Again, with respect to the parties interested; some of the parties, it is true, are French, but other parties to the bonds, and some of the owners of the cargo, are not French. It would, I conceive, be difficult to hold, that those persons were bound by this law at all. Still more difficult would it be to maintain that I could dispose of a sum of money paid into the Registry of this Court for a specific purpose, and divert it to a totally different appropriation, without the consent of the persons who paid it in. These difficulties, I confess, are to my judgment wholly incapable of solution.

For the reasons to which I have adverted, I cannot assent to the proposition, that because these bonds are drawn up in the French form and by the French consul, and some of the parties advancing the money are Frenchmen, the French law should govern, not the bonds only, but all the other transactions connected with the ship. Such a principle, if admitted, would furnish a dangerous precedent in all future questions of bottomry; and would involve the Court in the greatest difficulties, because in every case where a bond of bottomry was given abroad, I should have to examine, in the first instance, into the form of the contract, and determine, according to such form, by what law the transactions ought to be regulated. Bonds in the English form, it is well known, are sent out from England to all parts of the world; and these bonds are copied from the form appended to Lord Tenterden's treatise on shipping, or from some other work of the same description. Was it ever known to be contended, that such bonds were to be construed by the law of England, according to whose form they were drawn, and not by the law of the country in which they were to be enforced? It is unnecessary for me to pursue the inquiry, how far the law of France, as stated by the owners of the cargo, is correctly stated in the present instance. However clearly that law might be demonstrated, it could not be applied to the circumstances of this case. I am perfectly satisfied, looking to the whole of the proceedings, that as regards these several bottomry transactions, the contracts were entered into, not with a view to the law of Rio, which is the *lex loci contractus*, nor with a view to the law of France, which governs the form of the bond, but with a view to the law of

1846.
28th July.
LA
CONSTANCIA.

1846.
28th July.

La
CONSTANCE.

England, where the contracts were to be carried into effect.

Before I leave this case, I must add one further observation upon the practical effect of the principle which the owners of the silver have sought to introduce, and which they have stated is a principle recognized and adopted in the law of France. If such a principle were generally admitted into the maritime law of Europe, it would, I conceive, be attended with consequences very little for the advantage of the shipping interest of this or any other country in the world. If such were to be the law, however urgent the necessity, however pressing the demand, merchants when applied to for advances would say, We will not advance money at all, because the property upon which it is lent may be taken for claims we know nothing about; or if they did run the risk, they would require a much larger premium than is demanded under the existing state of the law. It has been said that by this decision the present claimants will be left without a remedy; if this be so, certainly the law would appear to leave a case of great apparent equity without redress. I cannot, however, for a moment conceive, that because I cannot interfere, such will be the case with regard to other tribunals. It may indeed possibly happen, that in this case, as sometimes happens in other cases, the right of action may be useless; that the owners of the vessel may be abroad, and not within the jurisdiction of the courts of common law, or that such owners are bankrupts or insolvent. Such may by possibility be the case in the present instance, but that is not a circumstance which would give me a jurisdiction to interfere. For all these reasons, I am clearly of opinion, that it is impossible to lend the

authority of the Court to satisfy the demand of the owner of the silver out of the funds which are in the hands of the Court. I must, therefore, reject this petition, and with costs.

*1846.
28th July.*

*La
CONSTANCIA.*

THE CHARLOTTE WYLIE. Rands.

THIS was a cause of salvage, promoted by the officers and crew of H.M.S. Cygnet, for services rendered to this vessel under the following circumstances :—

The vessel, it appeared, was proceeding on her homeward voyage to this country from the coast of Africa, where the master and one of the seamen were seized with fever, and a signal of distress was hoisted. Upon going alongside, the commander of the Cygnet immediately took out the master and the sick seaman, and put his gunner and three of the crew of the Cygnet on board ; and by their assistance the Charlotte Wylie was navigated to Prince's Island, the Cygnet occasionally towing. At Prince's Island Mr. Collier, the sailing-master of the Cygnet, accompanied by two of the seamen, went on board the Charlotte Wylie ; and Mr. Collier took the command of the vessel, and brought her in safety to England.

The defence on the part of the owners was, that the mate was quite competent to have brought the ship home, and that the services of Mr. Collier were unnecessary. That in point of fact Mr. Collier was put on board by the commander of the Cygnet for the purpose of securing a passage to England, where he was coming for the recovery of his health, and not from a conviction that his advice and assistance were requisite for the safe navigation of the vessel. That

11th November.

The commander and crew of a vessel of war, upon the African station, held to be entitled to a salvage remuneration for putting a sailing master and two seaman on board a homeward bound merchant vessel to assist in navigating the vessel, the master and one of the mariners of the merchant vessel being invalidated with fever, and incapable of discharging the duties on board.

Deductions claimed by the owners for the value of the ship and cargo on account of freight, primage and insurance, disallowed.

1846.
11th November.

THE
CHARLOTTE
WYLIE.

the two seamen who accompanied him on board were discharged from the Cygnet, and were duly entered on the books of the Charlotte Wylie, and received their pay as seamen of that vessel,—consequently they could not claim in the capacity of salvors.

The case was argued by

Queen's Advocate and *Addams* for the salvors.

Harding and *Bayford* for the owners.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

It is now admitted by the learned counsel who have argued this case on behalf of the owners of the ship and cargo, that a salvage service has been rendered. The question, therefore, which I have to determine is, what is the compensation to be awarded to the salvors; and, in order to ascertain the amount of that compensation, it is necessary that the Court should have before it some constat of the value of the property which has been saved. Where any dispute arises as to the value of the property itself, the ordinary and proper course of proceeding is to take out a commission of appraisement; where there is no dispute as to the value of the property, and where the question is not a question of fact, but a question of law, viz. whether the owners are entitled to make certain deductions, the commission of appraisement is unnecessary. In this case a preliminary question arises, not upon the fact, but upon the law,—whether certain deductions from the admitted value of the ship and cargo can be legally made by the owners. The deductions in question amount to the sum of £590; and these deductions are claimed by the owners for freight, primage and insurance. With

espect to the primage and insurance, I have no hesitation in deciding that the deduction cannot be allowed. With respect to the freight I am also of opinion that the deduction must be disallowed; and for this reason, that the claim of the salvors extends over the ship, cargo and freight, and they are entitled to have the whole value of these properly stated. Upon the present occasion no dispute is raised between the owners of the ship and the owners of the cargo; and if the freight be deducted from the value of the cargo, it must be taken afterwards as a separate item, upon which the Court must decree salvage. This mode of proceeding, it is obvious, would be attended with no advantages to any of the parties concerned.

I shall therefore assume the value of the ship and cargo together as amounting to the sum of £1300; and upon this assumption I will now proceed to consider what are the undisputed facts in this case. It is admitted in the first place, that whilst this vessel was on her homeward voyage from Africa to this country, the master and one of the seamen were taken ill; that a signal of distress was hoisted, and that the master and the seaman were removed on board the Cygnet; that the seaman died on board that vessel, and that the master, long after the two vessels had parted, recovered from a protracted and very dangerous illness. It is further admitted, that the gunner of the Cygnet and three of the mariners were put on board the Charlotte Wylie, and that whilst the two vessels were in company on their way to Prince's Island, the Cygnet took the Charlotte Wylie in tow. A third and more important admission is, that upon the arrival of the vessels at Prince's Island, Mr. Collier, the sailing-master of the Cygnet, was put on board the Charlotte Wylie to conduct her to England;

1846.
11th November.
THE
CHARLOTTE
WYLIE.

1846.
11th November.
THE
CHARLOTTE
WYLIE.

and that two of the crew of the Cygnet accompanied him on board, and were put upon the ship's books, and assisted in navigating the vessel.

It has been contended in the argument of the case, that the two seamen who went on board at Prince's Island, having signed the ship's articles, must be considered as part of the crew of the vessel, and could not be entitled to claim as salvors. It would be raising a question requiring great consideration for no purpose if I were to attempt to decide the point, whether these men were ever discharged from the Cygnet, and whether the signing of the ship's articles was or was not a legal act: it is a question altogether unimportant to the real issue in the cause; because the distribution of the salvage remuneration in the present instance must be governed by other and different rules from ordinary salvage, viz. by act of parliament and the proclamations of her Majesty in Council. I shall therefore pass on to the next objection which is raised by the owners, that the towing of the Charlotte Wylie, and the services of the gunner and the three seamen who were put on board in the first instance, were superfluous and unnecessary. This again is a small point in the case, and has no material bearing upon the issue in the cause. Were it necessary to supply an answer to this objection, such answer, I think, might be deduced from the fact, that the number of the original crew of the Charlotte Wylie had been diminished by the absence of the master and the seaman who were taken on board the Cygnet; and the probability is—I do not say certainty—that some inconvenience and some difficulty, if not danger, might have been experienced in navigating the vessel by the reduction in the original complement of hands. But this, I repeat, is a small

part of the service, and no great stress has been laid upon it by the counsel for the salvors; indeed, it is admitted by them, that the towage was principally resorted to, to accelerate the movements of the Charlotte Wylie, and to save, what is always valuable, the time of her Majesty's ship. I now come to a far more important objection, which has been raised against the claim of the alleged salvors, viz. that the mate was fully competent to have brought this vessel home to England, and that the sending the sailing-master on board to conduct the vessel was altogether unnecessary. This branch of the case must depend upon two questions of fact: first, whether or not the crew were sufficient for the purpose of navigating the vessel to England; and, secondly, whether the mate was sufficiently skilled in navigation to discharge, without assistance, the functions of master with safety to the lives and property on board the vessel. Independently of these questions of fact, let us for a moment consider how stand the probabilities of the case in reference to this averment. It is, I apprehend, notorious that it forms part of the instructions of every one of her Majesty's vessels, that they shall render assistance to British vessels in distress. On the coast of Africa in particular, where, in consequence of the illness of the crews from the maladies which prevail in that region, British vessels are more frequently in comparative danger and distress from a shortness of hands,—it forms a part of the duty of commanders of ships on that station to follow out these instructions, and to render their assistance. But have they any inducement so to do, unless the circumstances of the case imperatively require it? I conceive not; and for this obvious reason, that on the coast of Africa it is absolutely necessary, for the

1846.
11th November.
THE
CHARLOTTE
WYLIE.

1846.
11th November.

THE
CHARLOTTE
WYLIE.

efficiency of her Majesty's ships engaged in the suppression of the Slave Trade, that the commanders should retain on board their own vessels their full complement of men. They are exposed to a two-fold danger—one the danger of sickness from the climate; the other, which occurs frequently, from the weakening and diminishing the number of the crew by sending them with prizes to various ports;—it is not, therefore, to be supposed, that, under ordinary circumstances, any one of her Majesty's officers on that station would be willing or desirous of diminishing his crew unnecessarily.

It has been suggested by the learned counsel who argued this case for the owners, that Captain Layton, the commander of the Cygnet, might possibly have been influenced by two considerations: the one, his own benefit and advantage in effecting a salvage service; the other, his desire of securing a homeward passage for Mr. Collier, who was ill at the time, and was returning to England for the recovery of his health. Without the strongest and most conclusive proof arising from all the facts of the case, I should be most reluctant to impute to any officer in her Majesty's service that he was influenced, by any motive of private advantage to himself, to disregard his duty. I could not presume such an inference; and when I consider the trifling amount of the reward that can accrue to Captain Layton from any salvage decreed under the circumstances of this case, it is clear that he would have exposed himself to the inconvenience of losing his sailing-master—one of the most important persons in the navigation of his vessel—with-out any prospect of adequate pecuniary recompense. With respect to the health of Mr. Collier, I am satisfied, from the statement of Dr. M'Cree, that he was

in able and efficient officer, though suffering under temporary indisposition.

1846.
11th November.

THE
CHARLOTTE
WYLIE.

I must now return to the question of fact, whether the mate was or was not competent to conduct the vessel safely home without assistance. As regards the capacity of the mate there has been a great deal of swearing in the cause. If the testimony of the mate himself was exceptione major, it would go far to determine the question; for he unquestionably speaks to his own capacity in very decided terms. Looking, however, to the contents of his affidavit, it is apparent that he is a person utterly regardless of the acts to which he is deposing; for he swears to the truth of facts which were utterly beyond his own knowledge, and which it is impossible he could have any means of knowing. But it was said, and the argument was strongly pressed, that when the vessel arrived off St. Michael's, Mr. Collier told the mate that if he did not get better he should land there; and asked him whether in that case he, the mate, could take the Charlotte Wylie home, and that the mate replied he was quite able and willing to do so.

This averment, it is said, is uncontradicted, and must, therefore, be taken as an admitted fact in the case. Conceding that position, what is the value of the fact itself? It is this, that the question was asked by Mr. Collier under the impression that he should be compelled to land at St. Michael's, and the answer of the mate is his own testimony to his own capacity. The very fact that the question was asked by Mr. Collier, in some measure detracts from the testimony in question; inasmuch that it demonstrates that Mr. Collier, although he had been sailing in company with the mate, had not ascertained, as a matter of fact, that he was capable of taking charge of

1846.
11th November.

THE
CHARLOTTE
WYLIE.

the ship: if the mate had been so competent, the fact, I conceive, must have been known to Mr. Collier. I do not think it necessary to follow up this question more minutely: I rest my decision more immediately upon the consideration, that in all probability additional hands were necessary for the safe navigation of the vessel. It is not to be supposed that a merchant vessel would take more hands on board than were absolutely necessary for the working of the ship. If, therefore, the original crew of the Charlotte Wylie consisted of the master and the man Smith and seven others, by the withdrawal of the master and the seaman the ship's complement of hands was reduced to seven; and not only so, but there was the loss of by far the most important person on board, namely, the master himself.

It has been asked from what danger this vessel was rescued. I answer, from the danger of a long navigation with a deficient crew and a probably deficient master. I am of opinion, that the officers and crew of H.M.S. the Cygnet are entitled to a salvage remuneration for their services; and I think I shall meet the justice of the case in allotting the sum of £150, with their costs.



21st November.

Damage pro-nounced for against a vessel with a licensed pilot in charge, compulsorily taken on board.

Blame of the collision solely imputed to the crew by the pilot in charge,

THE ATLAS.

IN this case the Picolo Oscar, an Austrian brig, belonging to the port of Trieste, whilst at anchor in Falmouth Harbour was run into by the Atlas upon the 24th of February last, and was so much damaged that she was obliged to be run ashore and unladen for the purpose of repairs. The Atlas was in charge of a licensed pilot at the time, compulsorily taken on

board; and, the damage being admitted, the question was confined to the comparative credit to be given to the affidavits in the cause.

The pilot in charge of the *Atlas* distinctly swore, that he gave the orders to drop the anchor in time, and the collision was occasioned by a delay on the part of the crew in carrying those orders into effect.

The crew, on the other hand, as positively denied that any orders were given by the pilot.

The case was argued before Trinity Masters by

Addams and Robinson for the *Atlas*.

Bayford and Phillimore for the *Picolo Oscar*.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

Gentlemen,—No doubt can be entertained that the damage in this case was occasioned by the default or negligence of some person or persons on board the *Atlas*, and was not caused through any failure on the part of the crew of the *Picolo Oscar*.

Prima facie, therefore, the owners of the Austrian vessel (independent of all municipal regulations) are entitled to be indemnified by the owners of the *Atlas* for the loss which they have sustained. In the course of the argument some observations were thrown out by the learned counsel for the *Atlas*, with respect to the manner in which the case had been conducted on behalf of the *Picolo Oscar*. My opinion is, that the owners of that vessel were perfectly entitled to bring forward their case as they have done. They state generally, that they were at anchor, and properly moored; and that the *Atlas* came into the harbour, and, in making her preparations for anchoring, ran into the *Picolo Oscar*, and did the damage in ques-

1846.
21st November.

THE ATLAS.

and distinctly denied by the crew.

Court pronounced that the pilot was in some degree in fault, and that the evidence, under the circumstances, was not sufficient to bring the charge home to the crew.

Owners of the damaging vessel dismissed from the responsibility of the damage.

1846.
21st November.
THE ATLAS.

tion. I do not conceive that they were bound, as suggested, to set forth more explicitly the nature of the damage, or to specify with more minuteness the manner in which it was occasioned. Again, with respect to the imputed delay in bringing this case to a hearing, the blame of such delay, if any, in my judgment, rests with the owners of the *Atlas* themselves. The answer to the act on petition should, I conceive, have confessed in the first instance, that the damage was occasioned by neglect; and should then have gone on to allege, that such neglect was exclusively the neglect of the pilot who was in charge of the *Atlas*, and was not in any degree participated in by the crew of that vessel. If this course had been adopted, the affidavits might have been taken immediately, and the point in issue might have been at once brought to a decision. I now come to the real ground of defence which is set up by the *Atlas*; and I must here repeat, what I have already stated in former cases, that where the defence alleges that a collision was occasioned by the exclusive negligence or default of the pilot in charge, the onus of proving that fact rests with the vessel setting up the defence. The propriety and justice of this principle is obvious upon two distinct reasons: First, that, according to every dictate of common sense, the persons on board the vessel which has received the damage cannot know with any accuracy what is done on board the damaging vessel; secondly, that the persons on board the vessel which sets up the defence must or ought to know whether the collision was occasioned by the default of the pilot or of the crew. Acting upon this principle in the present instance, I will frame the question which I shall have to put to you in the following form, Have the owners of the *Atlas* established to your satisfaction, that this

collision did not arise from any default or negligence
of their own crew?

1846.
21st November.

THE ATLAS.

I am well aware of the difficulty which attends the solution of this question—a difficulty which arises from the strong and positive contradiction between the affidavit of the pilot who was in charge of the *Atlas* and the affidavits of the crew of that vessel. On the one hand it is alleged, that the pilot gave the order in time for letting the anchor drop, but the crew disobeyed it. On the other hand, there is a general denial that any such order was given. The first averment rests upon the single and unsupported testimony of the pilot alone, and he is subject to all those observations upon his credibility which have been so strongly urged by *Dr. Addams* and *Dr. Robinson*. He may, as suggested, be liable to an action,—he may be liable to the forfeiture of his bond,—he may be subject to dismission: for all these reasons, he has undoubtedly the strongest inducement to depose in exculpation of himself. On the other hand, the master and crew of the *Atlas* are not in a much better position. They have not only the interest of their employers at stake, but their own individual interest would undoubtedly lead them to swear that they were not to blame. As regards the probability of the case, it is difficult to say that there is *a priori* any decided preponderance on the one side or the other. The probability lies either way: it is just as consistent with probability that the pilot should discharge his duty with propriety as the crew; again, it is equally consistent with probability that either party should have neglected their duty in bringing this vessel properly to an anchor.

The question, then, which I shall submit to your consideration is this,—Are you of opinion that under

1846.
21st November. the circumstances of the case, the crew of the Atlas were not to blame?

THE ATLAS.

After consultation with the Trinity Masters, the learned judge proceeded to observe:

Upon the first question in this case there neither has been nor could be any controversy, namely, that the damage sustained by the Picolo Oscar was occasioned by the negligence or incapacity of some person or persons on board the Atlas. Upon the second point, the gentlemen by whom I have been assisted are of opinion, that some blame is imputable to the pilot who was in charge of that vessel. With respect to the third point, whether the master or any of the crew of the Atlas shared in that culpability or not, we are all of opinion that there is not enough evidence to satisfy us that any blame is imputable to them. I must, therefore, dismiss the suit, but I shall give no costs.

27th November.

A vessel close hauled on the larboard tack, meeting another vessel with the wind free, at night, not justified in starboarding her helm where there is a probability of the two vessels coming into collision.

Both vessels pronounced in default, the other vessel

THE SERINGAPATAM.

IN this case the Harriett, a Danish vessel of 445 tons burthen, whilst upon a voyage from St. Croix to Copenhagen with a cargo of colonial produce, was run down off Beachy Head by the Seringapatam, an outward bound East Indiaman, upon the 26th of April last.

It was stated on behalf of the Harriett, that she was proceeding on the larboard tack up channel at the time, close hauled, her course lying E. and by S., and the wind being N.E. by N. and N.N.E. That the Seringapatam was proceeding down channel,

steering W.N.W., and sailing with the wind free at the rate of about nine knots per hour. That the Seringapatam, when first descried, was about three points to leeward of the Harriett, and distant about four cables length. That as the Seringapatam approached, the Harriett starboarded her helm, and the Seringapatam, instead of keeping her course or bearing up in time, ported her helm at the last moment, and ran into the Harriett on the larboard side, abaft the forechains, causing the bark to fill, and compelling the crew, for the preservation of their lives, to take refuge on board the Seringapatam. That a good look-out was kept, and the measures adopted by the Harriett were proper and seamanlike, under the circumstances of the case; and the collision was solely imputable to the Seringapatam, in not keeping a good look-out, and not porting her helm in the first instance.

On the part of the Seringapatam it was alleged, that the wind was N. half W.; that a good and proper look-out was kept on board the Seringapatam, and that the collision was occasioned by the want of skill and mismanagement of the Harriett in putting her helm astarboard; that according to the Trinity House regulations, both vessels, under the circumstances of the case, were bound to have ported their helm.

The case was argued before Trinity Masters by

Queen's Advocate and Robinson for the Harriett.

Addams and Deane for the Seringapatam.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

Gentlemen,—It is admitted in this case that the course

1846.
27th November.

THE
SERINGAPATAM.
not having kept
a good look-out,
and not having
ported her
helm in time.

1846.
27th November.
THE
SERINGAPATAM.

of the Harriett was E. by S., and that the Seringapatam was steering a course W.N.W. With respect to the direction of the wind the parties are at issue. On the part of the Harriett it is alleged to have been N.E. by N. and N.N.E.; on the part of the Seringapatam, that it was N. half W. Without imputing to either party any intentional misrepresentation, we may, I think, with safety assume that the wind was somewhere between the two statements. Under this assumption I shall submit to your consideration three questions, upon which, I apprehend, the decision in the case must eventually depend. First, did the Harriett adopt a right and prudent course in starboarding her helm; she being, according to her own statement, as close hauled as she could be at the time? Secondly, did the Seringapatam act properly in putting her helm aport? The third and most important question is, was there a good look-out on board the Seringapatam at the time when this collision took place? I confine this question to the conduct of the Seringapatam, because I am satisfied, in my own mind, that no reasonable doubt can be entertained that a good look-out was kept on board the Harriett, and that no blame whatever attaches to this vessel in this respect. If you shall be of opinion that there was a neglect of duty on the part of the crew of the Seringapatam in not keeping a sufficient look-out, and that the helm of the vessel was not ported as soon as it might and ought to have been—however right may be the measure of porting the helm—it will not avail to protect the owners of the Seringapatam from the responsibility of the damage in the present instance.

On the part of the Harriett, you will observe, gentlemen, there is a distinct averment to the effect

that she first saw the Seringapatam at the distance of half a mile; is it not somewhat remarkable that both in the evidence and in the pleadings on behalf of the Seringapatam, there is an absence of all specification as to the time and the distance at which the Harriett was first seen from the Seringapatam? The silence of the Seringapatam upon these points, it appears to me, is not undeserving of consideration.

1846.
27th November.

THE
SERINGAPATAM.

Gentlemen, it will be for you to consider whether, looking at all the circumstances of the case, there was a good look-out kept on board the Seringapatam; and whether, assuming the measure to have been rightly adopted, the helm of the Seringapatam was put to port at a sufficiently early period of time.

The *Trinity Masters* were of opinion, that the Harriett did wrong in starbording her helm. And that the Seringapatam, for want of a good look-out, did not port her helm in due time.

Court pronounced that the damages should be equally borne by both parties.

THE GREAT NORTHERN. FORREST.

1st December.

THIS was a suit for wages, promoted by the late master of this vessel, under the statute 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112. An appearance under protest was given by the mortgagee of the ship; and the defence to the action was rested upon the grounds,—1st, that the owners of the Great Northern were not bankrupts or insolvents within the provisions of the act 6 Will. IV. c. 14; 2ndly, that the act 7 & 8 Vict.

Construction of
the Irish Bank-
rupt Act, 6
Will. 4, c. 14.
Plea of the
master, that the
owners of the
vessel were
bankrupt, not
brought within
the provisions
of the 22nd sec-
tion of the sta-
tute.

1846.
1st December.
THE GREAT
NORTHERN.

did not apply under the circumstances of the case, the wages in question having been earned antecedent to the time when the act came into operation.

For the mortgagee *Addams* submitted, that the statute 7 & 8 Vict. had already received a judicial interpretation in the case of the Princess Royal, and the effect of the decision in that case was, that masters of vessels were only entitled to resort to this Court for their wages, when the owner has become bankrupt or insolvent within the strict legal interpretation of the term. In the present instance, the alleged bankruptcy of the owners was stated to be a bankruptcy under the statute 6 Will. IV. c. 14, which applies to bankruptcies in Ireland; and this statute requires the observance of certain forms to constitute a bankruptcy under that act. The 22nd section provides, "that the trader shall first file, in the office of the lord chancellor's secretary of bankrupts, a declaration in writing, properly signed and attested, that he is insolvent or unable to meet his engagements; that this declaration shall then be inserted in the Dublin Gazette; and every such declaration shall, after the insertion of such advertisement, be an act of bankruptcy, committed by such trader at the time when such declaration was filed." What follows? Why the section then goes on expressly to enact, "that no commission shall issue thereupon, unless it be issued out within two calendar months next after the insertion of such advertisement; and unless such advertisement shall have been inserted in the Dublin Gazette within eight days after the declaration was filed; and no docket shall be struck upon such an act of bankruptcy before the expiration of four days next after the insertion of such advertisement." What are the

facts of this case? Was any commission taken out within the two months as prescribed by the act? No such thing. The only act done by the owners, to comply with the requisitions of the act, was the mere preliminary act of filing the declaration. This was filed upon the 12th of May, and no further act has since been done to complete the bankruptcy. It was perfectly obvious, that the circumstances of the case did not fall within the provisions of the 22nd section of the statute, and that the owner was not a bankrupt within the strict legal meaning of the term; that a further objection to the master's claim to sue in this cause was suggested by the fact, that the contract between the owners and the master was extinguished antecedent to the time when the statute 7 & 8 Vict. came into operation. The act did not receive the royal assent until the 5th September, 1844; and according to the master's statement, the wages were earned previous to September, 1843. Whatever wages, therefore, the master was entitled to receive, could only be recovered under the law as it existed at the time the wages were earned, viz. by a personal action against the owners with whom he had made his contract. That although in the case of the Repulse the Court had certainly laid it down that the statute 7 & 8 Vict. was, to some intent, retrospective in its operation, the fact in this case, that the contract between the master and the owner of the vessel was extinguished at the time the act of Victoria came into operation, furnished a strong difference between this case and the case of the Repulse.

For the master, *Bayford* contrà. That it was not necessary to establish a bankruptcy under the act

1846.
1st December.
THE GREAT
NORTHERN.

1846.
1st December.

THE GREAT
NORTHERN.

6 Will. IV. It would be sufficient, for the purpose of bringing the case within the statute 7 & 8 Vict., to show that the owners of this vessel were at the present moment insolvent, in the legal acceptation of the term. That this was sufficiently evidenced in the declaration of the owners themselves, which had been filed in the office of the secretary of bankrupts; and as this was not only solemnly signed by the owners, but was formally attested, it was an instrument entitled to the highest consideration. That in the circumstances of the case itself, there was nothing to militate against the decision already pronounced by the Court in the case of the Princess Royal; and as regarded the decision in the Repulse, although the circumstances of the two cases might, in some respects, be different, the observation laid down by the Court in the outset of its judgment was in these words,—“The act in question is necessarily, in some respects, retrospective in its effects, inasmuch as it applies to contracts made between masters and owners antecedent to the passing of the act.” That this dictum had no exclusive reference to the case immediately before the Court at the time, but was general in its import; and as such was fairly applicable to the claim set up by the late master of the Great Northern in the present instance.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

In this case the vessel was arrested at the suit of the master, under the provisions of the statute 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112. An appearance has been given under protest on behalf of the mortgagee of the ship, and the protest is mainly rested upon the averments, that the owners of the Great Northern are not bankrupts or insolvents in the strict legal acceptation of the

term; and consequently the master is not entitled to sue in this Court under the provisions of the recent act of parliament. In the case of the Princess Royal, which was cited by the learned counsel for the mortgagee, I have already decided, that the true meaning and proper construction of the statute is, that in order to establish the master's right to sue in this Court, the owner must be a bankrupt or insolvent, not in the mere general acceptation of the term, that is, unable to discharge his pecuniary obligations, but must be so in the strict legal sense of the words.

1846.
1st December.
THE GREAT
NORTHERN.

From this decision it is not my intention to depart in the present instance; and the point which I have to determine is, how far the facts and circumstances of this case fairly fall within the principle of this decision. It is alleged, on behalf of the master, that a declaration of insolvency was filed by the owners of the Great Northern about the 12th of May; that is, about five or six weeks before the period when the arrest of the vessel was made. The question arises, Does such a declaration *per se* constitute a bankruptcy under the act 6 Will. IV. c. 14? If it be so, the ship has been properly arrested, and the suit has been legally commenced by the master. If, on the contrary, the filing of such declaration was only an incipient step requiring something further to be done at a subsequent period to complete the bankruptcy, and if this further act has not been done and cannot now be done, it is clear, in my opinion, that the owners of this vessel would not be bankrupts within the true intention of the Bankruptcy law of Ireland. In order to solve this question, I must now refer to the 22nd section of the act. This section provides in these words,—“ That if any such trader shall file, in

1846.
1st December.
THE GREAT
NORTHERN.

the office of the lord chancellor's secretary of bankrupts, a declaration in writing, signed by such trader and attested by an attorney or solicitor that he is insolvent"—the word insolvent, I would here observe, is used, not in a technical, but a general sense—"or unable to meet his engagements, the said secretary of bankrupts shall sign a memorandum that such declaration hath been filed, which memorandum shall be authority for the printer of the Dublin Gazette to insert an advertisement of such declaration therein ; and every such declaration shall, after such advertisement inserted as aforesaid, be an act of bankruptcy committed by such trader, at the time when such declaration was filed." What, now, according to the meaning of this section, is the effect of such a declaration being signed ? The effect is distinctly stated and defined by the words of the act, viz. "that it amounts to an act of bankruptcy upon the part of the person so making the declaration." Does this constitute a *bankruptcy* in the legal acceptance of the term ? Most clearly not. There is, I apprehend, a very wide difference between a person being a bankrupt and committing an act of bankruptcy. The 22nd section then proceeds to enact, "that no commission shall issue thereon unless it be sued out within two calendar months next after the insertion of such advertisement, and unless such advertisement shall have been inserted in the Dublin Gazette within eight days after such declaration was filed." How far do the facts of this case establish a compliance with these further requisites provided in the 22nd section ?

According to the statement which is before me, and which statement is altogether uncontradicted, it appears that no act whatever was done by the

owners of the vessel subsequent to the filing the declaration of insolvency. It is perfectly clear that no commission has been sued out within the two months specified by the statute; and no such commission can by possibility be sued out now, the two months having expired. Under these circumstances, it is impossible for me to designate the owners of his vessel bankrupts under the act of parliament 4 Will. IV. With respect to the argument which was raised by the learned counsel for the master, that the declaration of the owners' insolvency was of itself sufficient to give the master a persona standi to proceed in the cause, I at once dispose of it in the observation, that the insolvency mentioned in the declaration is an insolvency, not in the technical, but general sense of the term. As I consider myself bound to adhere to the decision I have already given in the case of the Princess Royal, I must hold, that such an insolvency, if proved, would not be sufficient in the present instance. I must, therefore, come to the conclusion that the vessel has been illegally arrested, and that the protest of the mortgagee against any further proceedings in the cause must be sustained.

1st December.
THE GREAT
NORTHERN.

THE GAZELLE.

IN this case the Dispatch, a schooner of 88 tons burthen, whilst on her voyage from Sunderland to Ipswich, laden with coals, was run into by the Gazelle about ten miles to the southward of the Dudgeon Light, and was eventually sunk.

The statement of the Dispatch was, that she was

17th December.
Steam-vessel
proceeding at
an improper
speed upon a
dark night con-
demned in the
damage.

1846.
17th December.

THE
GAZELLE.

close hauled on the starboard tack, and was proceeding at the rate of about three knots an hour, the wind blowing stiff, and the night being dark and thick, with rain. That seeing the approach of the steamer she hoisted a light, and hailed the steamer to port her helm, the schooner keeping her own course as she was bound to do. That the light was hoisted in sufficient time to enable the steamer to take the necessary measures to avoid the collision ; but the steamer continued her course at the rate of about nine knots an hour, and ported her helm only at the last moment, when the two vessels were close upon each other. That, seeing a collision was inevitable, the schooner, in order to lighten the force of the blow, starboarded her helm, and immediately afterwards the steamer struck the schooner on her starboard bow with such force that she eventually filled and sunk, the crew getting on board the steamer. That the collision was entirely occasioned by the default of the steamer in not keeping a good look-out, and in proceeding upon such a night at the speed at which she was going. That she should have ported her helm sooner, and should have eased or stopped her engines in the first instance.

On the part of the steamer it was denied, that any hailing was heard from the schooner by the persons on board the steamer ; and the defence was mainly rested upon the averment, that the two vessels were approaching each other upon a dark night stem on, and, by the regulations laid down by the Trinity House, both vessels were bound to have ported their helms. That the schooner by her own admission put her helm astarboard, and the collision was occasioned by her mismanagement and want of skill in so doing.

The case was argued before Trinity Masters by—

1846.
17th December.

Jenner and Deane for the owners of the *Dispatch*.

THE
GAZELLE.

Addams and Phillimore for the owners of the *Gazelle*.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

Gentlemen,—I must trouble you with a few observations with respect to the rules which have been laid down for the navigation of vessels by the Trinity House Board, in order that we may clearly understand what those rules are, and whether I have rightly comprehended them or have been in error upon former occasions of this kind.

The first regulation is, that sailing vessels having the wind free shall give way to those on a wind; by the term giving way is meant, I apprehend, that they shall get out of the way by whatever measures are proper for the purpose, either by porting or starboarding the helm, as the occasion shall require. The next rule is, that when both vessels are going by the wind the vessel on the starboard tack shall keep her wind on, and the vessel on the larboard tack shall bear up, thereby passing each other on the larboard tack. In this case the two vessels, you perceive, are similarly situated; and the rule, it appears to me, is wisely framed to prevent either vessel from dodging from one side to the other, through misapprehension or doubt as to the course which the other vessel would pursue. It is next provided, that where both vessels have the wind large or abeam they shall pass each other in the same way, viz. on the larboard side. This rule, I conceive, was also framed for the purpose of avoiding uncertainty; and in order to effect

1846.
17th December.

THE
GAZETTE.

the purpose in both cases, it is necessary that the helm should be put aport. So much for the regulations laid down by the Trinity House Board for the navigation of sailing vessels. I now come to another regulation which applies more exclusively to the conduct of steam-vessels; and this rule is laid down to the following effect, that as all steam-vessels are to be considered as vessels navigating with a fair wind, they are bound to give way to vessels sailing on a wind on either tack. Where a steamer meets another steamer or a sailing vessel going large, when the two vessels are on different courses, and must necessarily pass each other so near that by continuing their respective courses there would be risk of their coming into collision, each vessel shall put her helm to port, so as to pass on the larboard side of each other: this last regulation, it is obvious, does not apply to the present case. The case which we are now considering is the case of a steam-vessel meeting a sailing vessel on a wind; and in such a case it is an undoubted proposition, that the steamer is bound to give way whether the sailing vessel be upon the starboard or the larboard tack. What then is the meaning of the term giving way? I have already stated my own impression, that it means getting out of the way by any measure that the occasion may require; and I am not aware of any expression that has ever fallen from any of the gentlemen by whom I have so often been assisted in these cases, that it means putting the helm to port under all circumstances. Let us now consider what are the circumstances under which this collision took place. The Dispatch, a schooner of 88 tons, laden with coals, was proceeding on the starboard tack to the east, the wind being at the time, according to the admission of both parties in the suit, from S. and by

W. to S.S.W.; and it being further admitted by the Gazelle herself, that the wind was blowing stiff, and the weather dark and thick, with rain. The course of the Gazelle, according to her own statement, was N.N.W. half W., and she was proceeding at the rate of between nine and ten knots an hour. The statement of the Gazelle then goes on to aver, that the persons on board the Gazelle saw a light on the larboard bow, and the mate of the Gazelle ordered the steersman to port the helm, which was accordingly done; and immediately afterwards the two vessels came into collision, the bowsprit of the schooner striking the Gazelle on the larboard rail, about ten feet before the paddle-box. According to this statement it would appear, that the moment a light was seen the helm of the steamer was put to port, and immediately afterwards the collision took place. This statement is not contradicted on the part of the Dispatch; but she states what I conceive to be an important ingredient in the case, and deserving of your consideration, that upon seeing the Gazelle closing upon her, she starboarded her helm, and hailed the steamer to put her helm aport. With respect to the last averment, you will observe, that it is expressly denied on the part of the Gazelle that any hailing was heard from the schooner. Consequently, if any error was committed by the persons on board the schooner in so hailing the steamer, it was an error that could not have influenced the measures adopted by the steamer, and was not in any degree the cause of the collision. The first question then is, whether upon such a night, the Gazelle being in a part of the sea which is much frequented by colliers, it was consistent with prudence, and a due regard to the lives and property of others, that she should have been proceeding at the speed of

1866.
17th December.
The
Gazelle.

1846.
17th December.
THE
GAZELLE.

between nine and ten knots an hour? The next question is more peculiarly addressed to your nautical skill and experience, viz. whether as soon as the light was seen by the persons on board the Gazelle, the helm of that vessel should have been ported or a different measure should have been adopted,—in other words, whether the exhibition of the light did not convey such an intimation of the close proximity of another vessel as rendered it obligatory upon the steamer to ease or stop her engines, or put the helm at once to starboard or to port. If you shall be of opinion, that in any of these respects the steamer either did that which she ought not to have done or omitted to do what she ought to have done,—in either case the owners of the Gazelle must be responsible to a certain extent for the damage in question. So much for the conduct of the Gazelle. With regard to the schooner, if you are of opinion, that the helm was put a starboard improperly or before there was any necessity for so doing, and the adoption of that measure in any manner contributed to occasion the collision, the consequence in law must be, that both vessels are to blame, and the loss must be divided between them.

The *Trinity Masters* expressed their opinion, that the starboarding the helm of the schooner and the collision were simultaneous; and that the schooner was exonerated from all blame. They were also of opinion, that the steamer acted imprudently in proceeding with so much speed under the circumstances of the case, and that she did not take the necessary measures to avoid the collision.

Damage pronounced for, with costs.

THE WILLIAM.

1847.
13th January.

THIS was a claim for salvage, promoted by the owners and crews of two yawls belonging to Great Yarmouth, for services rendered to this vessel in getting her off the Scroly Sand upon the 7th of October last. The value of the ship, cargo and freight was £3820, and the services of the alleged salvors lasted about two hours and a half, the weather being fine at the time. A tender of £100 was made by the owners, and the tender was rejected.

The case was argued by

Queen's Advocate and Robinson for the salvors.

Jenner and Bayford contrà.

By the strict rule of Court, where a tender has been rejected and has afterwards been adjudged a sufficient tender, the salvors are liable to a condemnation in the costs.

The inclination of the Court, however, is not to press the rule with rigidity in all cases.

Tender pronounced for, but without costs.

The Court upon the merits decided that the tender was sufficient; and in reference to the question of costs, as applying generally to this class of cases, the learned judge observed to the following effect:—

I entertain some difficulty with respect to the question of costs. As a general position of law, it is undoubtedly the rule of this Court that salvors are liable to a condemnation in the costs where a tender has been rejected, and has afterwards been adjudged a sufficient tender. This rule has been framed not with a view to the punishment of the salvors, but as a matter of justice to the other parties in the suit: and in the practice of other Courts I apprehend the principle of the rule is carried out to the fullest extent. I have considered with some care how far in the proceedings of this Court it is desirable that this rule should be generally and uniformly applied.

1847.
13th January.

*THE
WILLIAM.*

The result of the consideration is, that I should feel great reluctance in applying the rule with full rigidity in all cases; and for this reason, viz. that there is something loose and indefinite in the very nature of all salvage transactions, which renders it difficult for the best constituted minds, when judging of their own merits, to determine with nicety the real value and extent of their services. Where a tender has been made which is upon the face of it so ample and so liberal as to put beyond doubt the propriety of its acceptance, the rule of the Court must be applied in all its rigour. In the present case, although I am clearly of opinion that the tender ought to have been accepted, yet at the same time, looking at the value of the property and at all the circumstances of the case, I do not think I ought to deprive the salvors of all reward, which I should in effect do by condemning them in the costs of these proceedings. I do not consider that it would be for the interest of the public to strain the principle of law, with respect to costs, by so harsh an application of it under the circumstances of this case. In pronouncing, therefore, for the tender I must decline to make any order as to costs.

THE TRITONIA.

13th January.

MOTION.

Monition for an attachment refused, against a receiver of droits of Admiralty under the act 9 & 10 Vict. c. 99, for refusing to give up the posses-

IN this case the Court was moved to decree an attachment against a receiver of droits of Admiralty, appointed under the act 9 & 10 Vict. c. 99, for refusing to give up the possession of a vessel under the following circumstances:—

It was stated in the proceedings in the case, that

the vessel having run ashore to the westward of Blakeney Point, was abandoned by her master and crew at 6 p.m. of the 18th December last; and was discovered on the bar of Blakeney Harbour, by some Wayborn fishermen, who had put off to her assistance. That in the course of the same morning the consignees of the cargo, hearing that the vessel was stranded, sent down a number of men for the purpose of getting her off. These men, in conjunction with the fishermen, were occupied during the 19th and 20th in lightening the cargo of the ship, which consisted of railroad iron. That upon the 21st the vessel, having been sufficiently lightened, was towed off and carried into Blakeney by the assistance of a steam tug belonging to the consignees of the cargo, where she was again taken possession of by the master, who was also a part owner. That during the afternoon of the 22nd, S. P., who represented himself as deputy receiver of droits of Admiralty, accompanied by a notary public, arrived at Blakeney, and claiming the ship as derelict, under the Wreck and Salvage Act, 9 & 10 Vict. c. 99, turned the master and crew out and took possession of her themselves. It was also further stated, that upon the 24th December the vessel was arrested under a warrant of this Court, by the Wayborn fishermen, in a cause of salvage; and bail having been given, a supersedeas was issued; but that notwithstanding such supersedeas, the deputy receiver of droits refused to give up the vessel, and persisted in retaining his possession until certain demands, contained in an account delivered to the owners, were satisfied.

1847.
19th January.

THE
TARTORA.

sion of a vessel which he had seized as derelict and retained until his claim for expenses had been settled.

Under these circumstances, *Addams* moved the

1847.
13th January. Court to decree an attachment against the receiver
for a contempt, in refusing to obey the supersedeas
THE
TRITONIA.
of the Court.

Per Curiam.

What jurisdiction have I to interfere in this matter? The supersedeas which has been issued by the Court is only to supersede the effect of its own warrant of arrest, which had been previously issued. If that supersedeas had been resisted, I would assuredly have attached the party; but the application in the present instance relates to a matter totally different. It is in its nature an application in a cause of possession, with which I have no power or authority to deal in the summary manner suggested. The act of parliament, 9 & 10 Vict., gives me no jurisdiction over the receivers of droits appointed under that statute; and if the party against whom this complaint is now made has been guilty of a dereliction of duty in seizing and retaining this vessel, the remedy of the owners must, in my opinion, be sought, either by a representation of the facts to the Lords of the Admiralty, or by bringing an action in a court of common law. I am clearly of opinion that I have no authority to interfere in the matter, and I must consequently refuse the motion.

A tender of £100 was subsequently made in acts of Court for the services of the fishermen. This tender was refused; and upon the 10th day of May the cause for salvage came on for hearing, when the case was argued by

Robinson and Jenner for the salvors.

Addams and Twiss for the owners.

1847.
13th January.

TUR
TRITONIA.

The answer to the act on petition, with a view of again bringing the conduct of the receiver of the droits of Admiralty under the notice of the Court, in the conclusion of the plea averred, "That on the afternoon of the 22nd, whilst the schooner was lying at the quay with her remaining cargo under the care of the consignees, and her master being then in possession of her, Mr. S. Palmer, of Great Yarmouth, deputy receiver of droits, accompanied by a notary public, arrived at Blakeney, and by threats of certain penalties, under the act 9 & 10 Vict. c. 99, compelled the master to make an affidavit as to his having abandoned the vessel on the 18th December; and, on obtaining such affidavit, forcibly seized and took the schooner with her cargo out of the possession of the master, without any lawful warrant from the magistrate, as having been derelict. That the owners, being unable otherwise to recover possession of the vessel and cargo, have been compelled to pay Mr. S. Palmer £76 : 15s. 6d. to procure their release. That the principal salvors were the Blakeney fishermen and the steamboat. That the Sheringham fishermen had neither the means nor power of themselves to get her off or land her cargo; and that they were induced solely at the instance of Mr. Clark, without ever applying to the owners for any compensation, then and there on the spot to permit Mr. Clark to send off an Admiralty warrant, and to institute this suit. That the Blakeney fishermen, fifty-eight in number, have received £150 for their services, and her owners have agreed to receive £50 for the services of the steamboat."

1847.
13th January.

THE
TRITONIA.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

It is no part of my duty, in the present instance, to take into consideration some of the circumstances which have been imported into the case, and which do not properly belong to the jurisdiction which I exercise. The only question which I have to decide is whether the sum of £100, which has been tendered, is a sufficient remuneration for the services which have been rendered to this ship and cargo. I have nothing to do with the conduct of Mr. Palmer; I have nothing to do with a receiver of droits appointed under the authority of an act of parliament. Whether he has demanded what is just or unjust, is not for this Court to determine. I stated upon a former occasion, and I did not expect to be called upon to repeat that opinion, that if Mr. Palmer had been guilty of a dereliction of his duty, in seizing and retaining this vessel, the complaint must be made to another tribunal competent to decide the case and to afford redress, and not to this Court, which has no authority to entertain or any means of determining the question. I dismiss, therefore, altogether from my consideration the alleged misconduct of Mr. Palmer, as utterly irrelevant to the issue in the cause; and I also dismiss the attempt which has been made upon the present occasion to apologize for the introduction of this irrelevant matter, namely, that a petty sum of £76 ought to be deducted from the whole value of the property, supposing Mr. Palmer was justified in his demand. The salvors, in my opinion, are entitled to be remunerated out of the whole value of the property, without reference to any thing which has been done by Mr. Palmer or any other person.

What, then, are the facts of the case as they are disclosed in the proceedings in the cause? The vessel, it appears, was laden with a heavy cargo of railroad iron, and was proceeding from Cardiff to Wells, when she was abandoned by her master and crew upon the evening of the 18th of December last. The coast guard at Sheringham having conveyed to some fishermen of that place the tidings of the abandonment, a boat, manned with a crew of nineteen hands, was launched, and rowed (the state of the wind rendering it impossible to sail) towards the place where the derelict was reported to be; and at half past five on the following morning the vessel was discovered lying upon her larboard side on Blakeney outer bank, striking heavily, and in a situation which it is admitted by the master himself in his protest to have been one of great danger. The salvors having so found the vessel, proceeded to render such assistance as under existing circumstances they could supply. The pumps being broken, they set to work, in the first instance, to bale out the water, and, according to the master's admission in the protest, she had at the time of her abandonment not less than five feet of water in her hold. They then sent (a very proper measure in my opinion) to inform the consignee of the cargo of the situation in which the vessel was placed; and that gentleman having dispatched a number of additional hands to assist in unlading the cargo, they continued in co-operation with these persons to unlade the vessel until the morning of the 21st, when at seven a.m. she was towed off by the assistance of a steamboat, and towed into Blakeney Harbour. A suggestion was raised in the argument, that these fishermen, without the assistance of the additional hands supplied by the

1847.
13th January.

THE
TARTANIA.

1847.
13th January.

THE
TRITONIA.

consignee of the cargo, would have been utterly incompetent to rescue the vessel and the whole of her cargo. That is a theoretical question, into which I do not think it necessary to enter. I shall look to the services which have been actually performed, and not to those which by possibility might have been required. Looking to those services, they do, I conceive, most satisfactorily establish a case of considerable merit upon the part of the salvors in the present instance. I think it an ingredient of merit, not of disparagement, that they allowed the Blakeney men to co-operate in unlading the cargo. I think also that this merit has been further enhanced by the prompt information conveyed to the consignee of the cargo respecting the situation of the ship, and the utter absence of any attempt to remain on board the vessel beyond the period during which their services were strictly requisite.

I am always desirous to hold out to salvors, whether the case be one of derelict or of simple salvage, the expediency of not standing by their strict rights, but to deliver over to the masters or owners, at the earliest moment in which it can be done with safety, the property of which they are in charge; provided always that the salvors, in the first instance, have adequate security for that reward to which they may be found ultimately entitled. I do not consider it necessary to discuss all those minor points which have been agitated in the pleadings, but which have, I think, wisely been omitted by the counsel on either side in the argument of the case. It is sufficient to observe, that the service which has been performed is a meritorious service, entitling the salvors to a salvage remuneration. Through their instrumentality the vessel was light-

ened, a sufficiency of the cargo was landed, and the remainder brought in safety into Blakeney Harbour. With regard to the arrest of the vessel by Mr. Clark as agent for the salvors, I apprehend that every salvor is entitled, as a matter of right, to resort to this Court, if he thinks fit so to do; and that he is not compelled to enter into a preliminary negotiation with the master or the owners of the ship and cargo. It may, under ordinary circumstances, be beneficial to himself and the owners that he should do so; but as a matter of right, especially in a case of derelict, the salvors are entitled to resort here to enforce their demands; in other words, the law entitles them to say, We will have the judgment of the High Court of Admiralty, as to the extent of the remuneration which we ought to receive, we will not negotiate.

It has been suggested, that as the owners of the steamer are content to receive £50 only as the remuneration for the assistance of their vessel, and as the Blakeney men have been satisfied by the payment of £150 for their services, the Court must form, from these facts in the case, a criterion of the comparative value of the services rendered by the asserted salvors. I do not, in any measure, accede to this suggestion, I do not know why the sum of £50 was given to the owners of the steamer; still less do I know upon what principle the Blakeney men have estimated their services. This, however, I do know, that they do not stand upon the same footing as the Sheringham fishermen; on the contrary, that as the latter persons first boarded this vessel when she was a derelict and abandoned, they possess a title superior to that of the Blakeney men in every sense of the word. Under the circumstances of the case then, looking at the season of the year when this service

1847.
13th January.

THE
TRITONIA.

1847.
13th January.

**THE
TRITONIA.**

was rendered, looking also to the peril in which the vessel was placed, and remembering that she was a derelict, I am of opinion that the tender which has been made is not an adequate remuneration, and that I shall not exceed the justice of the case by allotting an additional £100. Of course the costs must follow, and if they fall heavily upon the owners, they have to blame themselves for introducing this mass of matter, which is wholly irrelevant with respect to Mr. Palmer and Mr. Clark.

22nd February.

Objections to the report of the Registrar and merchants in a case of damage by collision.

All the objections with one exception overruled.

Objection sustained, that the repairs of the damaged vessel were paid for upon the 25th of January, 1845; and interest was allowed by the Registrar to run only from the 15th of May, 1846, on which day the damage was pronounced for.

Report directed to be amended with respect to this item.

Each party to pay their own costs.

THE HEBE. Mosey.

THE question in this case was raised upon the objections which were taken to the report of the Registrar and merchants in a cause of damage by collision.

The objections to the Registrar's report, as set forth in the act on petition, were to the following effect:— That the collision took place on the 3rd December, 1844. That after the collision the schooner was assisted into Portsmouth, from whence, after having been repaired, she sailed for Yarmouth. That shortly after the collision G. P., the owner of the schooner, authorized Captain Clifton to proceed from Yarmouth to Portsmouth to superintend the repairs; and that he proceeded there accordingly, and remained at Portsmouth until the completion of the repairs, viz. the 7th of February, 1845. That in the account of damages and expenses submitted to the Registrar and merchants a claim for £22 : 1s. 6d. for the expenses of the said Captain C., and of £21 for his loss of time, was made; but that the Registrar and merchants have disallowed the whole thereof, on the ground

that Messrs. Garrat & Gibbon, of Portsmouth, acted as the agents of the owner, the said G. P. That the only manner in which Messrs. Garrat & Gibbon acted as agents was in advancing the money and discharging the bills for the repairs; and for which they made a charge of £11: 0s. 9d., being at the rate of $2\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. on the amount of their advances. That the master of the Rose, in addition to being too unwell to attend to the repairs himself, was utterly incompetent to superintend the same, both of which facts were expressly called to the attention of the Registrar and merchants. That the bills for the repairs, salvage of the Rose, and other expenses connected therewith, amounted to the sum of £408: 18s. 2d., vouchers for which were produced to the Registrar and merchants; but that they have only allowed the sum of £391: 2s. 9d. without assigning any reason for such deduction. That after the schooner arrived at Yarmouth sundry work was done on her by shipwrights, caulkers, &c. at an expense of £5: 3s. 9d.; but that the same has been disallowed by the Registrar and merchants. That at the time of the collision there was a quantity of meat, grocery and other provisions on board the Rose, which were stolen by some person or persons who boarded the Rose, the crew having been obliged for the preservation of their lives to leave the vessel, that the said provisions had been replaced at an expense of £5: 18s. 8d.; and that the expenses of the master and crew in Portsmouth, and of the master in travelling home to Yarmouth and back to Portsmouth, where the repairs were furnished, amounted to £4: 14s., the said two items making, with the sum of £1: 4s. paid by the master for setting up the rigging, the sum of £13: 16s. 8d., but of which sum the Registrar and merchants have only allowed

^{1847.}
22nd February.
THE HEBE.

1847.
22nd February.
 THE HIRE.

£7 : 2s. 8d. That a claim for demurrage, at the rate of £2 per diem during the detention of the vessel at Portsmouth, was submitted to the Registrar and merchants, who refused to allow the same, and required that the books of the owner of the said vessel should be produced for their inspection. That the said owner declined to produce his books, but tendered to the Registrar and merchants an affidavit from himself, corroborated by another affidavit of a ship owner at Yarmouth, stating that during the time of the vessel's detention at Portsmouth she might have made two voyages with full cargoes of coals between the North and Yarmouth, and would in all probability have earned a clear net profit of £56 or thereabouts; but that nevertheless the Registrar and merchants only allowed the sum of £30 for demurrage. That the whole of the bills for the repairs and other expenses connected with the collision (excepting the law expenses) were paid in January, 1845, notwithstanding which the Registrar and merchants have only allowed interest on the amount rejected by them, computing from the 15th of May, 1846, on which day the decree pronouncing for the damage was made.

The case was argued by

Jenner in support of the objections.

Addams contra.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

The original cause out of which this question arises was a cause of damage by collision brought against this brig by the owners of the schooner *Rose*. The damage having been admitted, the amount was referred in the usual form to the Registrar and mer-

chants. The report of the Registrar and merchants has been brought in, and is objected to; and I will now proceed to consider and dispose of those objections in the order in which they have been argued by the learned counsel for the Rose. The first objection relates to a small disallowance which has been made by the Registrar from the original sum claimed by the owner of the Rose, for the repairs of the vessel and other incidental expenses arising out of the collision. The sum claimed amounts to £408 : 18s. 2d., the sum which has been allowed is £391 : 2s. 7d. On the part of the Rose it has been admitted in the argument, that from the original sum so claimed £8 : 3s. 6d. may be fairly and properly deducted. The difference, therefore, upon which the first question is raised, is confined to the trifling balance of £9 : 12s. 11d. Now with respect to minor items in cases of this kind, the Court will not enter into the minutiae of the objections which are taken, nor will it inquire into the minutiae of the reasons by which the judgment of the Registrar and merchants has been influenced. The Court has the opportunity of referring generally to the Registrar and of ascertaining the principles upon which the report has been made out: when then I am informed, as in the present instance, that the difference arises from the Registrar and merchants having considered some of the charges superfluous and others too high, I see no reason to doubt that their discretion was properly exercised. I am, therefore, of opinion that they were right in allowing the sum of £391 : 2s. 7d. and that this primary objection must be overruled. The next objection arises upon a further disallowance made by the Registrar and merchants of the sum of £43 : 1s. 6d., charged for the expenses of Mr. Clifton in going down to Portsmouth

1847.
22nd February.
Sir H. B.

1847.
22nd February.

THE HEBE.

and for his remuneration in acting as the agent of the owner of the Rose, and superintending the repairs. It is to be noticed that in addition to this sum charged for the agency and expenses of Mr. Clifton, there is a further sum of £11: 0s. 9d. also charged for agency, and stated to have been paid to Messrs. Garrat & Gibbon for their services to the ship. It is not clear in what way the vessel came into the hands of Messrs. Garrat & Gibbon as agents for the Rose. They do not appear to have been appointed by the owner in the first instance as his agents, although to a certain extent they became his agents in advancing money and in discharging bills for the repairs. The question then is, whether I can allow the sum charged for the agency of Mr. Clifton in addition to the sum which has been allowed by the Registrar and merchants for the services of Messrs. Garrat & Gibbon. I am clearly of opinion that I can not; and I conceive that it would be extremely onerous upon the owners of the Hebe if such cumulative agency charges were allowed. It has been said in reference to the employment of Mr. Clifton, that his services were rendered necessary by the illness of the master of the Rose, and also by the fact, that in addition to his illness the master was utterly incompetent to superintend the repairs. Assuming the fact to be so, the illness or incompetency of the Rose's master furnishes no reason for saddling the owners of the Hebe with the expenses incidental to his inefficiency. He was the servant of the owner of the Rose, and if he thinks fit to appoint in the person of Mr. Clifton a substitute to discharge the duties which properly belonged to the master of his own vessel, he must do so at his own cost. With respect, therefore, to this objection I have no hesitation in confirming this part

of the report. With respect to the charges which have been disallowed for the journeys of the master from Portsmouth to Yarmouth and back, I am at a loss to comprehend upon what principle the expenses of these journeys can be saddled upon the owners of the Hebe. There is no ground in my opinion upon which these charges can be substantiated, and consequently I confirm their disallowance.

With respect to the additional repairs which were done after the arrival of the vessel at Yarmouth, it would, I apprehend, be extremely difficult to ascertain, if it were necessary to do so, how far such repairs might have been occasioned during the voyage from Portsmouth; but it is wholly unnecessary for me to enter into any such consideration, because I am satisfied that all the necessary repairs ought to have been completed at once before the ship left Portsmouth. I have no hesitation, therefore, in saying that I fully concur with the Registrar and merchants in their disallowance of this item in the accounts.

I now come to the question of demurrage; and certainly there is a very considerable difference between the claim which was originally asserted by the owner of the Rose upon this account and the sum to which the Registrar and merchants consider him to be entitled. The owner of the Rose in the first instance claimed the sum of £134. Objections being taken to the extravagance of this demand, the claim was subsequently lowered to the sum of £56; and this claim is now supported by the affidavit of Mr. Palmer, the owner, stating that during the period of the vessel's detention she might have made two voyages with full cargoes of coals between the North and Yarmouth, and would in all probability have earned a clear net profit of £56 or thereabouts. The exparte

1847.
22nd February.
THE HON.

1847.
22nd February.

THE HABE.

averment thus made by Mr. Palmer without the production of any vouchers to corroborate the statement is not, I confess, evidence to satisfy me in the present instance. Mr. Palmer was called upon to produce his books, and show what the vessel had actually earned in such voyages upon former occasions. This he declined to do: probably he may have had sufficient reason for so declining. At the same time he must learn, that in choosing to rest his claim upon inferior evidence when better evidence might have been produced he must take the consequences and inconveniences arising therefrom. The affidavit of Teasdell, the ship owner at Yarmouth, I dismiss at once with this observation, that the consideration is not what other vessels might have earned from the beginning of December, 1844, until the 10th of February, 1845, but what this particular vessel would, upon a fair calculation of all contingencies, have probably earned from the 4th of December, 1844, until the 25th of January, 1845. Any calculation made for a more extended period of time has nothing to do with the question. I see no reason, therefore, to disturb the report with reference to this item.

The last objection, to which I now come, is, it appears to me, entitled to far greater weight and consideration. As regards the indemnification of parties who have received the damage, the principle of law as heretofore laid down is this, that they are entitled to be fully and entirely indemnified for the injury they have sustained. In the courts of common law this principle has been so far carried out that they are held entitled to have new timber put in without the deduction of one-third allowed to the underwriters in insurance cases. In this Court, in the case of the

Gazelle, I myself adopted the same principle; and I consider that the principle not only applies to the case of new materials substituted for old, but that it is to be fully carried out in all its points. In the present case, would this principle be so carried out by allowing interest for the money expended in the repairs only from the date of the decree? I conceive that it would not. The account of Messrs. Garrat & Gibbons for their disbursements in the repairs was paid upon the 25th of January, 1845. The money was therefore due to the owner upon that day, but according to this report the Registrar and merchants have allowed the interest to run only from the 15th of May, 1846, upon which day the damage was pronounced for. I am bound, I repeat, to carry out in all its points the principle to which I have adverted. I must, therefore, hold that the interest in this case shall run from the 25th of January, 1845: if there had been any discount allowed for the repairs I should have taken that circumstance into consideration in forming my decision, but the contracts, it appears, were for ready money. The course which I shall adopt is this, I shall not refer the report back to the Registrar and merchants, but direct the necessary alteration with respect to this item to be inserted at once; and as this is the only item that has been sustained in the objections, I shall make no order as to costs, but leave each party to pay their own costs.

1847.
22nd February.
THE HON.

GIPSEY KING. CAMPBELL.

THIS was a cause of collision, promoted against this vessel by the owners of the schooner the Highlander, for damage sustained in the river Clyde.

16th April.
Manner of cutting the anchor, preparatory to bringing up a vessel at her an-

1847.
16th April.

THE
GIPSEY KING,
charge ground,
exclusively
within the pro-
vince of a li-
censed pilot in
charge.

Averment of
the owners of
the damaged
vessel, that the
collision was
occurred by
the anchor of
the damaging
vessel being im-
properly catted,
and that the
blame lay partly,
if not entirely,
with the crew,
overruled; and
the owners of
the vessel
charged with
the damage dis-
missed.

No costs given.

The Highlander, it was stated, was bound from Glasgow to Rotterdam with a cargo of pig iron, and at half past three p.m. of the 25th April last was proceeding down the river Clyde, when, in consequence of the tide being far ebbed, she took the ground towards the north side of the river, and opposite to Dunbarton Castle. That between eight and nine o'clock she floated off, and there not being sufficient wind to carry her through the current, the master let go the small bower anchor, and made fast the helm to the larboard side, giving her a taught sheer to the northward. That being so anchored, she rode with her bow down the river, immediately above the entrance to Dunbarton, leaving ample room for vessels to pass without interruption. That about half past eight, and previous to the anchoring of the schooner, a light was hoisted on the larboard fore rigging, at about fourteen feet above the deck. That shortly afterwards a steam tug was observed coming up the river, having three vessels in tow. That the said steam tug and the said three vessels passed clear of the Highlander upon her larboard bow. That about ten p.m., the night not being dark, but there being sufficient light to enable vessels to see at a considerable distance, another steam tug was also observed coming up the river with three vessels in tow. That the steam tug and the two first vessels in tow passed clear of the Highlander on her larboard side, but the third vessel, the Gipsey King, struck the Highlander on her larboard bow, into which she drove her anchor, where it remained fast, such anchor neither having been hoisted on deck nor catted as proper and customary, but hanging over her bow under water. That the hole made in the Highlander's larboard bow admitted

the water with such rapidity, that the master, to prevent her from sinking in deep water, ran the vessel ashore opposite Dunbarton Castle, the water then being over cabin lockers and above the main hold deck. That the blame of the collision was solely imputable to the Gipsey King, and in no sort or degree to the Highlander, or to any one on board that vessel.

The answer of the Gipsey King in substance stated, that the Highlander being anchored in the deepest channel, the tide at the time being rather more than one half flood, the pilot on board the steam tug immediately hailed the persons on board the Highlander to pay away her chain and shift her helm, for the purpose of giving the Highlander asheer by the tide, out of the way of the Gipsey King; but that no notice was taken of such hailing. That in consequence thereof the rudder or keel of the Gipsey King caught the cable of the Highlander, bringing the bowsprit of the Gipsey King into contact with the Highlander's fore rigging, and causing the anchor of the Gipsey King to run into the Highlander's larboard bow. That the anchor of the Gipsey King was at the time properly catted to the cathead, and hanging by a stationary chain slipper over the bow of the Titan, and near to but not under water. That the said anchor was so hung in conformity with certain bye-laws and regulations made by the parliamentary trustees of the river Clyde and harbour of Glasgow. That the Highlander was at the time in the charge of an unlicensed pilot, and riding by a small bower anchor only, such anchor unnecessarily lying in the deepest channel, the weather at the time being calm. That the collision was altogether attributable to the position in which

1847.
16th April.
THE
GIPSEY KING.

1847.
16th April.
THE
GIPSEY KING.

the anchor and cable of the Highlander were placed, and for her crew not having when hailed put away the chain and shifted her helm, which might easily have been effected. That a duly licensed pilot was on board and in charge of the Gipsey King at the time, under the bye-laws and regulations aforesaid; and that all the directions and orders of the pilot were promptly and efficiently obeyed by the crew.

The case was argued on the merits upon the 16th February before Trinity Masters by

Queen's Advocate and Robinson for the Gipsey King.

Addams and Jenner for the Highlander.

The Trinity Masters were of opinion that there was plenty of room for the three vessels to have passed, and that the accident was solely occasioned by the waving of the Gipsey King from the straight line. They were also of opinion that the Highlander, having been ashore, was entitled to be placed in the situation in which she was anchored, and that no blame attached to the persons on board that vessel. The Trinity Masters having retired, the point of law was mooted by the counsel for the Gipsey King, asserting the exemption of the owners from responsibility upon the ground that the Gipsey King was at the time under the entire charge of a licensed pilot compulsorily taken on board, and that his orders were properly obeyed by the crew. It being late in the day, the judge postponed the hearing of the argument until the 22nd of February, when the point of law was argued, and upon this day the Court delivered its judgment.

JUDGMENT.—*Dr. Lushington.*

This cause was argued upon the merits in the month of February last, when the Court was assisted by two of the elder brethren of the Trinity House. Upon that occasion, in proposing my questions to the Trinity Masters, I requested their opinion upon the two following points; first, whether there was sufficient space for the Gipsey King to have avoided the collision, if she had been properly navigated? secondly, whether the Highlander, the vessel proceeding in the cause, was or was not, under the circumstances of the case, properly anchored in the deep of the channel where she was lying. In answer to the first question, the Trinity Masters delivered their opinion, that there was sufficient room for the Gipsey King to have avoided the collision. Upon the second point (taking a distinction between anchoring and mooring) they pronounced, that the Highlander was properly anchored, having anchored without mooring in the deep water channel for the purpose of stopping a tide, and that vessels were so allowed to remain at anchor by the bye-laws of the river Clyde.

The result of the opinion thus expressed by the Trinity Masters was, in effect, to inculpate the Gipsey King as having occasioned the collision in question; and *prima facie* to saddle the owners with the payment of the damage, unless they were, in point of law, exempted from such a consequence. An exemption from liability is now asserted on their behalf by the learned counsel who have argued their case; and the exemption is claimed upon the ground, that at the time of the collision in question, the Gipsey King was under the charge of a licensed pilot compulsorily taken on board, that the orders of such pilot were duly exe-

1847.
16th April.
The
GIPSEY KING.

1847.
16th April.
THE
GIPSEY KING.

cuted by the crew; and that whatever was done by the Gipsey King, was done under the entire superintendence and direction of the pilot. Upon referring to the statute 6 Geo. IV. c. 117, and to the 3 & 4 Vict. c. 118, and also to the rules and regulations for the navigation of the river Clyde, which are said to have been made in pursuance of those acts of parliament, it is, I think, most sufficiently established, that the Gipsey King was bound under a penalty to have taken a licensed pilot on board in the present instance. That she had such pilot on board is not controverted. A priori, therefore, according to the doctrine I have heretofore laid down, the owners would be exonerated from liability for any damage done by collision with any other vessel, if such collision, under the circumstances, could be attributed to the pilot alone. This principle is not contested, but it is denied that it applies to the circumstances of the present case, inasmuch that the collision was occasioned, not by the sole default of the pilot in charge, but partly from acts improperly performed by the crew of the Gipsey King. The real question in issue, then, resolves itself into a question of fact; and the point which I have to determine is, whether the facts of the case bring this collision, as regards the liability of the Gipsey King, under the rule, that the pilot being solely to blame, the owners are altogether irresponsible; or whether the rule applies, that the blame of the pilot being shared by the crew of the Gipsey King, the responsibility is not taken away. Now I have, upon former occasions, already expressed my opinion, that a vessel in charge of a licensed pilot, whilst in tow of a steam tug, is, under ordinary circumstances, to be considered as navigated by the pilot in charge. That if the course pursued by the steam tug is in

conformity with his directions, and a collision takes place, the pilot is responsible, and not the owners of the vessel or of the steam tug. If, on the contrary, the steamer disregarded the directions of the pilot, and the collision was occasioned by her misconduct, the owner of the ship would, in that case, be responsible, in this Court, as for the acts of their servant; and they must seek their redress against the owners of the steam tug, in some other form of action. In the present instance, if I correctly understand the argument, the blame of the collision is not ascribed to the steam tug at all, neither is the conduct of the pilot solely or exclusively impugned. The case of the owners of the Highlander is, that the anchor of the Gipsey King having been improperly catted, the damage has arisen from the defiance of a duty, for the performance of which the master and crew of the Gipsey King were solely or partly responsible. In order to establish this averment as an effectual bar to the Gipsey King's exemption from liability, three things must be proved.

1st. That the mode of cating the anchor on board the Gipsey King was improper.

2ndly. That it was the cause of the collision that ensued.

3rdly. That it was the act of the master or his substitute, and of the crew of the Gipsey King.

I regret that I had no opportunity of requesting the opinion of the Trinity Masters specifically upon this point in the case; but unfortunately it was not mooted until after they had left the Court. I must, therefore, determine it by my own unassisted judgment; and my difficulty in so doing is, I must say, somewhat relieved by the consideration, that if the Trinity Masters had considered that the master and

1847.
16th April.
THE
GIPSEY KING.

1847.
16th April.

THE
GIPSEY KING.

crew of the Gipsey King were to blame in relation to the cutting of the anchor, they would have stated it in delivering their opinion to the Court. In order to elucidate this part of the case, I must now briefly refer to the pleadings in the case, and the evidence by which the respective statements are supported.

On the part of the Highlander it is averred, that the Gipsey King drove her anchor into the larboard bow of the Highlander; and that the hole made by the anchor admitted the water so fast, that, in order to prevent her from sinking, she was, of necessity, run ashore. This averment is met by a counter-statement on the part of the Gipsey King, that the rudder of the Gipsey King caught the cable of the Highlander, bringing the bowsprit of the Gipsey King into contact with the Highlander's fore rigging, and causing the anchor of the Gipsey King to run into the Highlander's larboard bow. What is the evidence in support of these statements on the one side and the other? On behalf of the Highlander there is, in the first place, the protest of that vessel, in which it is stated that the anchor of the Gipsey King was hanging over her bow, and not on deck or catted, as is usual and customary. This statement is supported by the testimony of Gillies the master, who swears, in his first affidavit, that the anchor was not properly catted, that one fluke was driven into the Highlander below the water mark; and that the damage was principally occasioned by the anchor of the Gipsey King hanging over the bow and into the water. He further states, in a second affidavit which he has made in conjunction with Browne, that the repairs were effected by inserting some African oak three feet below water mark. Without staying to notice the affidavits of Roberts and of Butts, which do not

materially affect the question in issue, I next come to the affidavit of Howard, the mate of the Highlander, whose statement, I must say, most fully supports the averment as sworn to in the protest and in the affidavits of the master. He swears "that the anchor of the Gipsey King had penetrated the larboard bow of the Highlander, at least three feet below the water mark." And he further goes on to deny, not only that the anchor of the Gipsey King could have been properly catted, but that the accident could have happened by the rudder or keel of the Gipsey King catching the cable of the Highlander; averring, in conclusion, that the Gipsey King was steered towards the Highlander stem on, and that the collision was occasioned thereby. Now, what on the other side is the evidence on behalf of the Gipsey King? The evidence consists, first, of the affidavit of Brunell the mate, and two of the mariners on board the Gipsey King; and they swear to this effect, "that the rudder or keel of the Gipsey King caught the cable of the Highlander, bringing the bowsprit of the Gipsey King in contact with the Highlander's fore-rigging, causing the Gipsey King's anchor to run into the Highlander's larboard bow, and the chain whereby the Gipsey King's anchor hung to give way;" and they then proceed to swear, "that the anchor of the Gipsey King was properly catted to the cathead, and hanging by a stationary chain stopper over the bow, *near to but not under the water*, in complete readiness to let go, on the Gipsey King's arrival at Bowling Bay." Next comes the affidavit of Graham, the pilot on board the Gulliver, and, after corroborating to the fullest extent the averment that the collision was occasioned by the Gipsey King's rudder catching the cable of the Highlander, he further swears,

1847.
16th April.
THE
GIPSEY KING.

1847.
16th April.

THE
GIPSEY KING.

"that it was absolutely necessary that the anchor of the Gipsey King should be properly catted, and placed in complete readiness to let go on her arrival at Bowling Bay. That from the manner in which the anchor of the schooner ran into the bow of the Highlander, he verily believes that the said anchor was at the time properly catted." The last affidavit, to which I shall refer, is the affidavit of Patteson, the foreman to the shipbuilders at Dunbarton; and he swears, "that unless the anchor had been properly catted on board the Gipsey King, the anchor could not possibly have been in such a position as deponent found it, but must necessarily have struck the Highlander at least eight feet further down in her hull;" and he concludes his affidavit by averring, "that he and his men extricated the anchor from the bow of the Highlander, and that the said anchor had entered the ship's planks nearly level with the water."

Such being the material evidence upon the one side and the other, the question arises, whether, upon this evidence, I can safely come to the conclusion that the anchor of the Gipsey King was not properly catted? The Trinity Masters, it is to be observed, gave no opinion upon the point; to this extent, therefore, I conceive their authority supports me in negativing the proposition, viz. that if they had been of opinion that the anchor was improperly catted, they would have noticed it in expressing their opinion.

I now proceed to consider the second point necessary to be established in order to deliver the Gipsey King from her exemption from liability, viz. that assuming the anchor of that vessel to have been improperly catted, the collision in question was, in

the legal sense of the term, the immediate consequence thereof. This consideration may, I think, be shortly disposed of by the observation, "that it is perfectly clear, in the present instance, that the primary cause of the collision in question, was not the anchor of the Gipsey King, but the steering or towing of that vessel. This was the decided opinion of the Trinity Masters, and in that opinion I entirely concur. If this be so, I conceive that it is no part of my duty to examine how much of the damage might by possibility have been occasioned by the anchor subsequently running into the Highlander. Such an investigation would be to institute an examination into secondary and inferior causes, and would introduce a novel principle into proceedings of this kind, which I am not disposed to adopt.

I might here end my observations upon the case, but assuming for a moment that the mode of cutting the anchor was the immediate cause of this collision, I will very shortly consider, in conclusion, how far the improper cutting of the anchor was, under the circumstances of the case, to be attributed to the crew of the Gipsey King. Looking to the precedent of former cases decided in this Court, it is, I apprehend, an established principle of law, that the mode, the time, and the place of bringing a vessel to an anchor, is within the peculiar province of the pilot who is in charge. This principle was distinctly laid down in the case of the *Agricola*, and has been acted upon in subsequent cases which have come under my decision. If the pilot, then, is to decide the mode of anchoring a vessel, it appears to me to follow as a necessary consequence, that the pilot is responsible to see that the anchor is in a proper

1847.
16th April.
THE
GIPSEY KING.

1847.

16th April.

THE
GIPSEY KING.

situation to be dropped when necessary. In the present case this view of the pilot's duty is confirmed by the rules and regulations of the river in which this collision occurred, and in which he is licensed to act as a pilot. These rules especially enjoin what is to be done as regards the having the anchor in a proper position ready to be dropped ; and such rules must be considered as peculiarly binding upon the pilot on board the Gipsey King, as being prescribed by the authority under which he was entitled to act.

Upon the whole view of the case, I am of opinion, that the collision in this case was occasioned by the default of the pilot alone ; that the Gipsey King was compelled to employ that pilot ; and consequently, that the owners are exempt from all responsibility for the damage. I give no costs on either side.

I N D E X.

A.

ADMIRALTY, Droits of. (*Vide Dcrelict. Lord of Manor.*)

ADMIRALTY COURT, jurisdiction of, how far extended.

1. In cases of claims of mortgagees of vessels, by stat. 3 & 4 Vict. c. 65, *page 222.*
2. Jurisdiction, how far limited in claims for mariners' wages by stat. 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 19. .35.
3. Jurisdiction, how far extended in claims for salvage by stat. 3 & 4 Vict. c. 65..251.

(*Vide Jurisdiction. Attachment. Salvage. Average, 3.*)

AFFIDAVIT.

Affidavits extraneous to and at variance with the pleadings are to be excluded, as well as the arguments which are attempted to be drawn from them, 209, 227.

AGREEMENT.

1. Agreements for salvage services made in writing and duly executed by the contracting parties can only be annulled, either by fraud, or by being cancelled by mutual consent, 170, 397.
2. Force of such agreements not affected by any subsequent change of circumstances which may alter the extent of the stipulated service, 173, 180.

APPORTIONMENT.

1. A general scale of apportionment fixed by agreement between the owners and crew of a sailing vessel, as to all salvage services to be performed by the vessel, not binding upon the judgment of the Court, 23.
2. An apportionment under agreement giving to the owners nearly two-thirds of the salvage remuneration set aside, and a fresh apportionment directed, 26.
3. In fixing an apportionment between the owners and crew, a distinction made betwen the case of fishing

APPORTIONMENT—(*continued*).

vessels and of ordinary sailing vessels, a more liberal allotment granted to the former, *page* 26.

4. Apportionment directed, 73, 115, 125, 175, 187.

APPRENTICE.

Salvage earned by apprentices on board a sailing vessel, is earned for their own use and benefit, and the owners of the vessel have no right to interfere with it, 353.

APPROPRIATION.

Appropriation of proceeds, 85, 465.

ASSIGNEES.

Assignees of a bankrupt shipowner entitled to contest the appropriation of the proceeds of the ship sold under decree of Court, in a cause of bottomry, against the assignees of the freight seeking to make the ship alone liable, 77.

ATTACHMENT.

1. Attachment of the Court of Admiralty superseded, the attachment having been served in Scotland originally, backed by the Lord Ordinary's concurrence; the Lord Ordinary having subsequently revoked his concurrence as illegally granted, 286.
2. Where a party is committed under an attachment of the Court for non-payment of costs, Court has no authority to direct a supersedeas for the release of such party, without the consent of the party at whose instance the attachment was issued, saving upon the grounds of an illegal execution of the writ, 347, 348.
3. Attachment decreed against an auctioneer for selling part of a ship's furniture whilst under the arrest of the Court, 396.
4. Attachment decreed against a prize-agent, 97.

AVERAGE.

1. Where portions of the cargo are sold to relieve the ship's necessities and to enable her to complete her voyage, the property so sold is the proper subject of general average, 489.
2. Owners of such property have no lien against the ship to entitle them to sue the owners for the recovery of their loss in the Court of Admiralty, 495.
3. Court of Admiralty has no jurisdiction to entertain questions of general average, 490.

B.

BANKRUPTCY.

1. Bankruptcy of shipowners under the statute 6 Will. 4, c. 14, s. 22, defined, *page 514, 515.*
2. What the meaning of the term, under the provisions of the statute 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112. .513.

BONDHOLDER.

1. Bondholders advancing money upon the security of the ship "alone," not entitled to extend their security beyond the terms of the bottomry bond, 406.
2. Bondholder partially indebted to the ship at the time the advances are made, how far affecting the validity of the bond, 416.
3. Bondholder buying up debts of the ship's creditors at 50 per cent. discount, not allowed to include the debts in the items of a bottomry bond, 437, 468.

BOTTOMRY.

1. Bond granted by the master of a British vessel in the port of London prior to the commencement of the voyage, upon motion sustained, the owners having received notice of the motion and not objecting, 6.
2. Query how far a bond so given before the commencement of the voyage would be recoverable in a contested suit, 7.
3. Bond granted upon an American vessel, to be paid twenty-four hours after the ship's arrival in the United States, pronounced for, the vessel having in the course of her return voyage been condemned at Plymouth as unseaworthy, 429.
4. Bond given in a foreign port by the master of a British vessel to cover a promissory note drawn in England and made payable in the foreign port, not sustained upon the plea, that by the law of the foreign port the vessel might have been arrested and sold for the repayment of the promissory note, 45.
5. Advances made in the port of Cowes for the service of a British ship, the owners being resident at Newcastle, not recoverable by a bond of bottomry of the ship, 49.
6. Advances made by a party indebted at the time to the owners of the ship, how far recoverable by a bond of bottomry, 416.
7. Objection to validity of bottomry bond overruled, 320.

BOUNTIES,

Decreed upon the capture of piratical prahns in respect of their crews, under the statute 6 Geo. IV. c. 49, *page 354.* (Vide *Pirates.*)

BROKER.

1. A ship's broker has no authority to pledge or assign the freight, without the consent of his employers, or the parties to whom it legally belongs, 87.
2. Even if such broker be a creditor against the owners of the ship for money advanced for the ship's necessities, such advances would confer no lien upon the freight, which would justify any such assignment, 87.

C.**COLLISION.**

1. If a vessel chooses to avail herself of a particular mode of going down a river, which renders it difficult to escape collision with other vessels, she must bear the consequences of any contingencies to which she may be exposed, 9.
2. If a collision takes place with another vessel in consequence, it will be no valid defence to allege that she was incapable at the time of getting out of the way, 9.
3. Schooner being warped down the river, coming into collision with a barge coming up, condemned in the damages, 10.
4. In doubtful circumstances, when there is a probability of collision, a vessel upon the larboard tack, though close hauled, must give way to another vessel on the starboard tack, although she may have the wind free, 195.
5. A vessel sailing upon a dark and foggy night with her topmast studding sails set, condemned in the damages, 201, 486.
6. When a steamer, coming down the river on a dark night, meets a sailing vessel beating up the river, it is the duty of the steamer to ease her engines and slacken her speed, until she ascertain the course of the sailing vessel, 270.
7. Defence of the master that he was in doubt as to the course of the vessel, and immediately ported his helm, in compliance with the Trinity regulations, not sustained, 270.

CONFICTING DECISIONS.

1. Where cross actions are instituted in a cause of damage by collision, the one party suing in the Court of Admiralty, the other party in a court of common law, a verdict in favour of the plaintiff in the common law action is not binding upon the judgment of the Court of Admiralty, *page* 195.
2. Where a damage has been done by one of H. M. ships, and an official inquiry has been made by the Lords of the Admiralty, and also by the admiral on the station, into the circumstances of the collision, an acquittal of the commander of the queen's ship, followed up by his subsequent promotion, will not be conclusive upon the judgment of the Court of Admiralty, 386.
3. A commander of a queen's ship, under the circumstances, condemned in the damage, 345.

COSTS.

1. Where a salvage claim is in part sustained and in part dismissed, upon the ground of subsequent misconduct on the part of the salvors, full costs not allowed, but a sum nomine expensarum only given, 314.
2. Where separate appearances had been unnecessarily given for two sets of salvors, half costs only given to each party, 176.
3. Where a collision is the result of inevitable accident, practice to give costs to neither party, 244.
4. Mariners bringing suits for wages in the Admiralty Courts, where the claim is under 20*l.*, not entitled to costs, unless it is apparent, from the circumstances of the case, that justice could not be efficiently administered before a magistrate, 235.
5. Objections to a report of the registrar and merchants overruled, with the exception of one item alone—no costs given, 537.

D.**DAMAGE. (Vide *Collision.*)****DECLARATIONS.**

1. Declaration of a common mariner on board the damaging vessel, that the damage was occasioned through the error of the helmsman, not admissible as evidence

DECLARATIONS—(continued).

- against the owners of the vessel charged with the damage, in a cause by plea and proof, *page* 394.
2. Principle upon which the declarations of mariners against their employers are received, confined to cases where the party making the declaration is the agent of the owners, 394.
 3. Declarations of the masters and crew of either vessel, purporting to have been made *re cœ*facto**, not entitled to much weight or consideration in a cause of damage, 203.

DEMURRAGE.

In fixing the amount of demurrage to be paid for the detention of a vessel, which has been run down, during repairs, a deduction must be made from the gross freight of so much as would, in ordinary cases, be disbursed on account of the ship's expenses in earning the freight, 284.

DERELICT,

1. Moiety of the ship and cargo decreed, subject to deductions for expenses incurred in bringing the ship into port, 90.
2. Ship and cargo found derelict off Wicklow Head, and carried by the salvors into Holyhead, value of ship and cargo 18,000*l.*, 1,800*l.* awarded, 125.
3. Moiety of the net proceeds of a vessel, brought in a derelict and sold under decree of Court, awarded to the salvors, 441.
4. A derelict found upon the Pole Sand, at the mouth of the river Exe, condemned as *droits* of Admiralty, 858.

DESERTION.

1. Construction of the act 5 & 6 Will. 4.. 136.
2. Desertion charged against a mariner under that act not established, 146.

E.**EVIDENCE.**

1. Evidence of releasing witnesses admissible in claims of joint capture, 160.
2. Where cross actions are brought to recover damages by collision, the one party suing in a court of common law, and the other party in the Court of Admiralty,

EVIDENCE—(continued).

affidavits made by two Trinity Masters, who had been examined as witnesses at Westminster Hall, stating their opinion upon the case from what they heard at the trial, not admissible as evidence in the cause before the Court of Admiralty, *page* 197.

3. Discrepancies in the evidence of the witnesses in a cause of collision as to the minor details of circumstances attending the collision, not material to affect the decision of the Court, 381.
4. Discrepancies in the evidence of the witnesses upon non-essential points, no conclusive disparagement to the integrity of the witnesses, 198.
5. When the evidence of the witnesses on the one side and the other is distinctly at variance, the Court will not necessarily look to the number of the witnesses on either side, but to the character and status of the persons who give the evidence, and the probabilities of the statement they are produced to support, 228.
6. Where the evidence in a cause of damage is conflicting and nearly balanced, the presumption is, that a master charged with having caused the damage by unseaman-like conduct, would follow the ordinary course, 246.

I.

INTEREST.

1. An interest to establish a persona standi in judicio, is not an absolute right to a given sum of money; but if a person may be injured by a decree in a suit, he has a right to be heard as against the decree, although it may eventually turn out that he can derive no pecuniary benefit from the result of the suit itself, 77.
2. In a cause of damage, the interest of monies expended by the owners of the damaged ship in the repairs of the vessel allowed from the date of the payment of the repairs, and not from the date of the decree pronouncing for the damage, 530.

INEVITABLE ACCIDENT.

An inevitable accident in point of law is that which the party charged with the collision could not possibly prevent by the exercise of ordinary care, caution and maritime skill, 205.

J.

JOINT CAPTURE.

Where two vessels of war, engaged in the common object of the suppression of the slave trade, are together, and the senior officer in command of one vessel, previous to a chase, gives orders to the other vessel to remain behind and pick up the boats of the chasing vessel, the picking up of such boats is a constructive assistance rendered towards the final capture of the slaver, and coupled with the fact that the vessel remaining behind is seen by the slaver previous to and at the time of the chase, will entitle the vessel remaining behind to share in the capture, although the two vessels shall not have been expressly associated by orders of the Admiralty, *page 163, 164.*

JURISDICTION.

1. Jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty with respect to claims of mortgagees of vessels extended by the statute 3 & 4 Vict. c. 65. .222.
2. Jurisdiction of the Court limited to the claims of mortgagees of the ship itself, and is not extended to questions arising out of deeds of mortgage, 223.
3. Jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty with respect to claims of mariners for their wages, limited to claims above 20*l.* by stat. 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 19, s. 15. .234.
4. Court of Admiralty has no jurisdiction to entertain a suit where the claim is under 20*l.*, unless it is apparent, upon a view of all the circumstances, that justice could not be fully and efficiently administered before a magistrate, 235.
5. Jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty with respect to claims for salvage rendered within the body of a county under the stat. 3 & 4 Vict., confined to the salvage of ships and sea-going vessels, and does not extend to the salvage of a raft of timber which had broken adrift from the owner's wharf and was found floating down the harbour of Yarmouth, 256.

L.

LAUNCH.

1. Where a launch is about to take place on a river, reasonable notice of the intended launch must be given, 243.
2. Such notice must be sufficiently specific as to the time

LAUNCH--(*continued*).

of the launch, to prevent vessels navigating in the river from unknowingly incurring risk or loss, *page 243*.

3. A collision occasioned by a launch running foul of a vessel proceeding down the river, to be decided upon the same principles as an ordinary case of collision upon the high seas, *243*.

LIEN.

Salvage, bottomry bonds and seamen's wages are liens upon a ship in the strictest sense of the term, and whoever takes a vessel as a security, must take it subject to such liens, although they may accrue subsequent to the mortgage, *79*.

LORD OF THE MANOR.

Claim of the lord of a manor to the proceeds of a ship stranded and abandoned upon the Pole Sand at the mouth of the river Exe, and taken possession of, not at low water, but when the tide was in to the extent of some feet, overruled, and the vessel condemned as droits of admiralty, *362, 363*.

M.**MAGISTRATES.**

Have no jurisdiction to levy warrants of distress upon a vessel in the custody of the Court of Admiralty at the suit of seamen for their wages, under stat. 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112. . 394.

MASTERS.

1. Masters of vessels only entitled to sue in the Court of Admiralty for their wages, under the stat. 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112, where the owners of the vessel have become bankrupt or insolvent in the strict legal interpretation of the term, *377*.
2. Privilege of masters to sue limited to two cases:—
 1. Where the wages are claimed for a party who was owner at the time of the original contract.
 2. Where such owner is bankrupt or insolvent at the time when the claim is preferred, *400*.
3. Master not debarred from suing under the statute upon the ground that he was a co-mortgagee of the vessel at the time, *401*.
4. A master suing under the statute must stand upon the same footing as an ordinary mariner, and will be sub-

MASTERS—(*continued*).

jected to all deductions for advances made to him by the owners, and for monies received by him on account of the ship, and for which, upon a balance of accounts, he may be indebted to the owners, *page 101*.

5. A master's right to sue under the statute not barred by his acquiescence in the sale of the vessel by the other mortgagor, *404*.

MONITION.

1. Monition to show cause why an attachment should not issue decreed against a broker who had removed the tackle of a ship while in custody of an officer of the Court, *395*.
2. Monition refused against the owners of a vessel which had been lost, calling upon them to show cause why they refused payment of a bill of exchange drawn by the master in payment of a salvage service rendered to the vessel previous to her loss, *450*.

MORTGAGEES.

1. The obstacle which formerly existed as to the title of mortgagees in the Court of Admiralty removed by stat. 3 & 4 Vict. c. 32. .80.
2. Stat. 3 & 4 Vict. confers upon the Court not only the right of adjudicating upon the claims of mortgagees against the ship, but virtually confers the same power over the freight or the funds representing the freight, *80*.
3. Mortgagees of a vessel which had been brought in derelict, and sold under decree of Court, held entitled to the remaining proceeds, after payment of the salvors, in preference to an alleged creditor who had advanced money for the service of the ship in payment of wages, seamen's board, &c., *441*.

N.**NECESSARIES.**

1. In order to establish that the necessaries supplied to a foreign ship are necessaries within the meaning of the statute 3 & 4 Vict. c. 69, the vessel must be in a state of exigency at the time, and the articles supplied must consist of articles needful for the relief of such exigency, *368*.
2. Anchors supplied for the equipment of a vessel building

NECESSARIES—(*continued*).

in a foreign dockyard not within the meaning of the statute, *page* 368.

O.**ONUS PROBANDI.**

1. Where a vessel at anchor is run down by another vessel under sail, the onus probandi lies with the vessel under sail to show that the collision was not occasioned by any error or default upon her part, 407.
2. Where the payment of a mariner's wages is resisted by the owners upon the ground of an alleged desertion, the onus probandi lies with the owners to make good their defence, 134.
3. Where a written agreement has been made between the master of a sailing vessel and the master of a vessel in distress, and a cancellation of the agreement is alleged, the onus probandi lies with the party setting up the averment, 170.

OWNERS.

1. Owners of fishing vessels entitled to a larger share in the apportionment of salvage than the owners of ordinary sailing vessels, 26.
2. The proportion of the owners' share in the apportionment of a salvage award must depend upon the loss and risk incurred by the vessel. Where the service has been rendered at great risk and loss the owners will be entitled to a greater proportion of reward than where the vessel is merely auxiliary to the service, 25.

P.**PILOT.**

1. Exclusive duty of a licensed pilot in charge to direct the time and manner of bringing a vessel to anchor, 14, 388.
2. Manner of cutting the anchor preparatory to bringing up a vessel at her anchorage ground, exclusively within the province of the pilot in charge, 547.
3. Pilots going on board a leaking vessel and assisting the crew in pumping entitled to be rewarded as salvors, 247.

PILOT ACT.

1. Construction of Liverpool Pilot Act, 5 Geo. IV. c. 73..
15.

PILOT ACT—(*continued*).

2. Construction of Cork Harbour Pilot Act, 1 Geo. IV. c. 52. .page 447.
3. Exemption from liability not taken away by the fact that the pilot in charge was taken on board in preference to other pilots by the master, and that he had been constantly engaged to conduct the vessel up and down the river in her outward and homeward voyages for a period of fifteen years, 412.
4. The provisions of the General Pilot Act, 6 Geo. IV. c. 125, apply to England only, and have no reference to Ireland, 448.

PIRATES.

1. Not necessary, in order to found a claim for the bounties given by stat. 6 Geo. IV. c. 49, that the attack should be confined to persons carrying on piracy as a regular occupation, 356.
2. Import of the statute is to comprehend all acts of piracy by whomsoever committed, 356.

PLEADING.

1. Whatever is pleaded in the nature of reply must be either in contradiction of what is alleged in the answer to the act, or explanatory of averments in the defence, or else necessary to corroborate the original statements in the case, 104.
2. A rejoinder must not state new matter of defence, unless such matter has come to the knowledge of the party since the reply was given in, 152.
3. The principle of pleading by act on petition requires that every important matter which is intended to be denied should be expressly negatived. Where a fact is averred, and there is no contradiction of that fact, the Court *prima facie* will assume such an averment to be true, 308.
4. Declarations of a pilot in charge of a vessel proceeded against in a cause of damage, that the collision was not his fault, but was occasioned by the neglect of the crew of the damaging vessel, not pleadable in a cause by plea and proof, 392.
5. Declarations of a mariner confirming the pilot's assertion also inadmissible, 392.

PRACTICE.

1. In the case of a British suitor, the Court will expect a more strict observance of the technical forms of proceeding than in the case of a foreigner, towards whom greater indulgence will be extended, *page* 106.
2. A mortgagee of a ship is not entitled to arrest a vessel for the purpose of enforcing bail for her safe return to this country, 110.
3. In cases of salvage it is the usage of the Court to take the whole value of the ship and cargo, and assess the amount of remuneration upon the whole, 319.
4. Not competent to parties to aver that the services were of greater importance to the ship than to the cargo, and that the ship should bear the greater burthen or vice versa, 319.

PROTEST.

The production of the protest is necessary in all cases, whether of collision or of salvage, but more particularly so in cases of salvage, 317.

R.**REGISTRAR and MERCHANTS.**

1. A deduction of one-third from the full amount of the repairs in consideration of new materials being substituted for the old not sustained in the report of the registrar and merchants, 282.
2. Allowance by the registrar and merchants that debts bought up by the bondholder from the ship's creditors should be included in the bond to the extent of the sums actually paid for them overruled, and such items directed to be struck out, 486.

REPAIRS.

1. Repairs of a British vessel in a port of this country, the owners being resident in England, cannot be made the subject of a bottomry transaction, 49.
2. Owners of a damaged vessel run down by collision entitled to the full amount of the repairs, no deduction being allowed in consideration of new materials being substituted for old, 279.
3. Repairs of a damaged vessel taken into port after a collision, must be completed at once before the ship leaves the port; additional repairs subsequently done after the departure of the vessel not allowed in the report of the registrar and merchants, 535.

REPORT OF REGISTRAR AND MERCHANTS.

In considering the report of the registrar and merchants, the Court will not enter into the minutiae of objections taken with respect to minor items, nor will it inquire into the minutiae of the reasons by which the judgment of the registrar and merchants has been influenced, *page 533.*

(*Vide Registrar and Merchants.*)

S.**SALVAGE.**

1. The carrying an order for a steamer to go out of harbour to a vessel in danger and distress, held to constitute a salvage service under the circumstances of the case, 91.
2. Where steamers go out of port for the express purpose of rendering assistance to vessels in distress, the time and expense incurred in reaching the vessel is to be taken into account in fixing the amount of the remuneration, 294.
3. Salvage of a raft of timber which had broken adrift from the owner's wharf, and was found floating in Yarmouth harbour, not within the jurisdiction of the Court, under the provisions of the statute 3 & 4 Victoria, c. 65.
4. The crew of a stranded vessel having abandoned their own vessel, and having taken to their boats, in making for the land fall in with and board another vessel also stranded and abandoned, and bring her in safety to England, claim of the owners of the first vessel to participate in the salvage award, upon the ground that the actual salvors were enabled to reach the second vessel only by means of his boats, compasses, &c., overruled, 353.

SALVORS.

1. Where two vessels come up together to render assistance to a vessel in distress, all the persons comprising the crews, although a part only are engaged, are entitled to be considered as salvors, 8.
2. A person employed to superintend the landing of the cargo of a vessel which had been brought in derelict, not considered as an actual salvor, although held entitled to some remuneration for his time and ser-

SALVORS—(*continued*).

- vices : one guinea and a half per diem during the period of his services awarded, *page 72*.
3. Claim of salvors setting up an inflamed or exaggerated statement of their services dismissed, and alleged salvors condemned in the costs of the proceedings, 270.
 4. Where an actual service has been rendered, the subsequent misconduct of the salvors may not only diminish the amount of their reward, but the entire claim to salvage remuneration may be forfeited, 477.
 5. A person who, under an agreement with the master of a stranded vessel, had taken charge of the ship, and had succeeded in saving and warehousing a part of the cargo, the vessel having gone to pieces, held entitled to a salvage remuneration, although his services were to be considered in the character of a meritorious agency, rather than of salvage services, 259.

SLAVE VESSELS. (Vide *Joint Capture*.)**STEAM TUGS.**

1. Where a steam tug is towing a vessel with a licensed pilot in charge, the steamer is not released from the obligation of watching the course which the licensed pilot pursues. 478.
2. If the course pursued by the pilot will lead the vessel into danger, and probable destruction, it is not for the steamer to maintain a sulky silence, and make herself instrumental in the destruction of life and property, 478.
3. A steam tug, after assisting a stranded vessel off the Goodwin Sands, in towing her into the Downs, ran her aground upon the Sandwich Flats : plea, that a licensed pilot was in charge of the vessel, and that the directions as to the course of the vessel rested with the pilot exclusively, overruled ; and claim of the steam tug for salvage remuneration dismissed with costs, 482.

SUITOR.

1. A suitor prior petens in a cause of damage, having obtained a decree in his favour, is entitled to the proceeds of the damaging vessel to the full extent of his damage, 482.

SUITOR—(continued).

2. Not competent to other parties who may have received damage from the same ship, and who have obtained a sentence subsequent to the first decree, to require that the proceeds of the damaging vessel should be applied *pro rata* to satisfy both the actions, *page 482*.

SUPERSEDEAS.

1. Supersedeas directed to issue for the release of a prisoner committed to the Queen's prison—upon an attachment served in Scotland—the Lord Ordinary having withdrawn his concurrence as illegally granted, 287.
2. Supersedeas refused for the release of a prisoner committed for nonpayment of costs in a cause of possession, 345.

(Vide *Attachment—Jurisdiction*.)

T.**TRINITY MASTERS.** (Vide *Affidavit*.)

Practice of the Court in taking the opinion of the Trinity Masters in cases of damage by collision, 225.

TRINITY-HOUSE RULES.

Application of the Trinity-House regulations depends upon the presumption that the two vessels are opposing each other, and is not intended to apply where the heads of the respective vessels are lying in different directions, 213.

W.**WAGES.**

1. Stipulation in mariner's contract, that a share in the proceeds of a whaling voyage should form a part of the wages, held to constitute a special contract, and to oust the jurisdiction of the Admiralty Court, 65.
2. Where any portions of a wrecked vessel have been recovered, a mariner is entitled to sue for his wages, although no freight has been earned, 119.
3. Wages of a mariner not forfeited by a temporary abandonment of the vessel whilst in a port for repair, 146.

WAGES ACT—Construction of the 5 & 6 Will. IV. sections 7 and 9.

1. The 7th section of the act expressly purports to pro-

WAGES ACT—(*continued*).

vide a penalty for temporary absence from the vessel in cases not of absolute desertion, nor treated as such by the master, *page* 125.

2. The earlier words of the 9th section are confined to the conduct of a sailor prior to the sailing of a ship from her port of clearance; and the latter part of the section exclusively refers to what is done beyond seas, 125.

Vide (*Jurisdiction.*)

ERRATA.



- Page 63, line 19, *pro* or *lege* paid.
211, line 22, *insere* not.
229, line 11, *pro* and *lege* to.
230, line 14, *pro* unheard *lege* irrelevant.
239, line 4, *pro* avowed *lege* averred.
250, line 24, *pro* for *lege* from.
335, line 19, *dele* aware and.
350, line 25, *pro* or *lege* in.
361, line 29, *pro* only *lege* acting.
362, line 16, *pro* guarded *lege* guided.
362, line 18, *pro* and *lege* or.

LONDON :
PRINTED BY C. ROWORTH AND SONS,
BELL YARD, TEMPLE BAR.

APPENDIX.

9 & 10 VICT. c. 99.

*An Act for consolidating and amending the Laws relating to Wreck
and Salvage.* [28th August, 1846.]

WHEREAS divers acts have been passed through a long series of years for preserving ships and goods stranded or cast on shore, as well as for preventing frauds and depredations on shipowners and others, and for the adjustment of salvage : And whereas it is expedient to consolidate and amend the same : Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That this act shall come into operation on the passing thereof as to the appointment of the officers hereby authorized, and the posting of their names, and as to the other parts thereof on the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

Commencement
of the act.

2. And be it enacted, That the several acts herein-after mentioned and referred to shall be repealed ; (that is to say,) an act passed in the twelfth year of the reign of her Majesty Queen Anne, intituled "An Act for the preserving all such Ships and Goods thereof which shall happen to be forced on shore or stranded upon the Coasts of this Kingdom or any other of her Majesty's Dominions ;" and also an act passed in the fourth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the First, intituled "An Act for enforcing and making perpetual an Act of the Twelfth Year of her late Majesty, intituled 'An Act for the preserving all such Ships and Goods thereof which shall happen to be forced on shore or stranded upon the Coasts of this Kingdom or any other of her Majesty's Dominions ;' and for inflicting the Punishment of Death on such as shall wilfully burn or destroy Ships ;" and also an act passed in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Second, intituled "An Act for enforcing the Laws against Persons who shall steal or detain shipwrecked Goods, and for the Relief of Persons suffering Losses thereby ;" and also an act passed in the forty-ninth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act for preventing Frauds and Depredations committed on Merchants, Ship-owners, and Underwriters, by Boatmen and others ; and also for

Recited acts
repealed, viz.
12 Anne, st. 2,
c. 18.

4 G. 1, c. 12.

26 G. 2, c. 19.

49 G. 3, c. 122.

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

- remedying certain Defects relative to the adjustment of Salvage in England under an Act made in the Twelfth Year of Queen Anne ; " and also an act passed in the fifty-third year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Third, intituled " An Act to continue for Seven Years Two Acts, passed in the Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth Years of His present Majesty, for preventing Frauds by Boatmen and others, and adjusting Salvage, and for extending and amending the Laws relating to Wreck and Salvage ; " and also an act passed in the fifty-third year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Third, intituled " An Act to amend an Act made in the last session of parliament, intituled ' An Act for the more effectual Regulation of Pilots and of the Pilotage of Ships and Vessels on the Coast of England,' and for the Regulation of Boatmen employed in supplying Vessels with Pilots licensed under the said Act, so far as relates to the Coast of Kent within the Limits of the Cinque Ports ; " and also an act passed in the session of parliament holden in the first and second years of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled " An Act to continue and amend certain Acts for preventing Frauds and Depredations committed on Merchants, Ship-owners, and Underwriters, by Boatmen and others ; and also for remedying certain Defects relative to the Adjustment of Salvage in England, under an Act made in the Twelfth Year of Queen Anne ; " and also so much of an act passed in the session of parliament holden in the third and fourth years of the reign of her present Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled " An Act to improve the Practice and extend the Jurisdiction of the High Court of Admiralty of England," as relates to awards made by justices and others in salvage cases, and appeals therefrom ; and also so much of an act passed in the session of parliament holden in the eighth and ninth years of her present Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled " An Act for the general Regulation of the Customs," as relates to persons being in possession of goods derelict, jetsom, flotsam, or wreck, and to the disposal of such goods ; and also an act passed in the parliament of Ireland in the fourth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the First, intituled " An Act for the preserving all such Ships and Goods thereof which shall happen to be forced on shore or stranded upon the Coasts of this Kingdom ; " and also so much of an act passed in the parliament of Ireland in the eleventh year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Second, intituled " An Act for enforcing and making perpetual an Act, intituled ' An Act for the preserving of all such Ships and Goods thereof which shall happen to be forced on shore or stranded upon the Coasts of this Kingdom ; ' and also for inflicting the Punishment of Death on all such as shall wilfully burn, sink, or destroy Ships," as makes the said last-mentioned act of the fourth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the First perpetual ; and also so much of an act passed in the parliament of Ireland in the seventeenth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Second, intituled " An Act for the Amendment of the Law in relation to Forgery,
- 1 & 2 G. 4.
c. 75.
- 3 & 4 Vict.
c. 65, s. 5.
- 8 & 9 Vict.
c. 86.
- 4 G. 1, c. 4.
- 11 G. 2, c. 9.
- 17 G. 2, c. 11.

and the Salvage of Ships and Goods stranded," as relates to salvage and proceedings relating thereto ; and also an act passed in the session of the parliament of Ireland holden in the twenty-third and twenty-fourth years of the reign of his Majesty King George the Third, intituled " An Act for the Amendment of the Law in relation to the Salvage of Ships and Goods stranded, or in danger of perishing at Sea ;" and the said several acts and parts of acts herein-before mentioned and set forth are hereby accordingly repealed, except so far as the said acts or any of them, or any thing therein contained, repeal any former act or acts, or any parts thereof ; and all and every which said act or acts, or the parts thereof so repealed, shall remain and continue repealed to all intents and purposes whatsoever . Provided always, that all offences which shall have been committed and all penalties and forfeitures which shall have been incurred previously to the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, shall and may be punishable and recoverable respectively under the above-mentioned acts or any of them as if the same had not been repealed.

23 & 24 G. 3,
c. 48.

III. And be it enacted, That, for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this act into effect, the receiver general of droits of admiralty may from time to time appoint persons to act under him, to be styled " receivers of droits of admiralty ;" and in the construction of this act the word " receivers " shall mean receivers of droits of admiralty ; and such receivers shall hold their offices during the pleasure of the receiver general and the pleasure of the commissioners of admiralty ; and the said receivers shall be entitled to the fees herein-after mentioned, together with a further remuneration, to be defrayed out of the proceeds of sales of droits made by them, at the rate of five pounds for every hundred pounds, after abating the charges and expenses incurred by them ; and the said receiver general shall send a list containing the names of such receivers, with their respective addresses, to the collectors of her Majesty's customs at the different ports of England and Wales and Ireland, and also to the secretary of the committee for managing the affairs of Lloyd's in the city of London ; and the said collectors and secretary respectively shall cause the said list to be affixed in a conspicuous place in the custom houses in the said ports and at Lloyd's aforesaid respectively : Provided always, that all the provisions contained in this act having reference to the said receivers, whether as to their style, office, powers, duties, remuneration, or otherwise, or as to the posting of their names, shall in all respects be applicable to those persons who shall at the time of the passing of this act have been appointed agents to the said receiver general of droits of admiralty, in as full and ample a manner as if the said agents had been appointed receivers under this act ; and all appointments in writing of agents or receivers by the receiver general of droits of admiralty, heretofore or which may be hereafter made, are hereby declared to be exempt from stamp duty.

Receivers of
admiralty droits
to be ap-
pointed, and
their names
and addresses
to be posted
at custom
houses and
at Lloyd's.

All provisions
in this act
respecting
receivers shall
be applicable
to the present
agents ap-
pointed by the
receiver general.
Appointments
of agents
exempt from
stamp duty.

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

Lords of
manors, &c.
claiming a
right to wreck
to give notice
to a receiver.

4. And be it enacted, That every lord or lady of any manor, or patentee or grantee of the crown, or other person or body corporate who may be entitled to or claim to be entitled to wreck of the sea, or to any goods found jetsam, flotsam, lagan, or derelict, shall deliver, or send by the general post or otherwise, a notice in writing, setting forth such claim, to such one of the receivers respectively whose residence shall be within or nearest to the said manor or other district in which such claim is made; and that no such lord or lady of any manor aforesaid, patentee or grantee of the crown, nor any other person or body corporate, shall be considered as possessing such title, or be able to enforce the same at law or in equity, until such notice shall have been so given as aforesaid: Provided always, that where two or more notices shall be given claiming the same rights the party who shall adduce to the receiver evidence of his having enjoyed such rights, or if both parties shall adduce evidence thereof, then the party who shall appear to the receiver to have been last in the enjoyment of such rights, shall be considered as the party entitled, until such conflicting claims shall have been finally determined at law or in equity; and unless such evidence shall be adduced by one of the said parties, such receivers, being in possession of such wreck of the sea, or goods jetsam, flotsam, lagan, or derelict, shall not deliver the same, except to the original owner thereof, until such conflicting claims shall have been determined as aforesaid.

All persons
finding wreck,
&c. to report
and deliver it
forthwith to a
receiver or
officer of the
customs.

5. And be it enacted, That all persons whomsoever who shall find, take up, or be in possession of any wreck of the sea, or any goods jetsam, flotsam, lagan, or derelict, or any boat, vessel, apparel, anchor, cable, tackle, stores, or materials, or any goods, merchandize, or other article whatsoever, which shall have been found floating or sunk at sea, or elsewhere in any tidal water, or cast, thrown, or stranded upon the shore, and whether the same be found above or below high-water mark, and whether wholly on land or wholly in the water, or partly on land and partly in the water, or shall find or take possession of any droit of admiralty of any description, whether such person shall claim to be entitled to such article or droit or not, shall forthwith send to the receiver or to the collector or comptroller of customs at the port or place nearest to which such articles or droits have been found a report in writing of all such articles or droits so found, containing an accurate and particular description of the marks (if any) thereon, and of the time and situation when and where the same were found, and shall also forthwith place such articles or droits at the disposal of the said receiver or officer of the customs; and every officer of the customs receiving such report shall forthwith transmit the same to the nearest receiver; and every person who shall keep possession of or retain, or conceal or secrete, any such wreck of the sea, jetsam, flotsam, lagan, derelict, boat, vessel, apparel, anchor, cable, tackle, stores, materials, goods, merchandize, or other article as aforesaid, or shall deface, take out, or obliterate any name, mark, or number

thereon, or alter the same in any manner, or shall keep possession of or retain, or conceal or dispose of any droit of admiralty, or shall not forthwith report and place at the disposal of such receiver or officer of the customs any such article or droit in the manner aforesaid, shall forfeit all claim to salvage, and shall on conviction forfeit any sum not exceeding one hundred pounds, and also forfeit and pay double the value of the articles to the owner thereof, if claimed, or to her Majesty, if the same become or be a droit of admiralty ; which double value may be recovered in the same manner as a penalty under this act.

6. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any receiver or officer of the customs upon warrant obtained by application to any magistrate or justice of the peace, who is hereby empowered to grant the same, to search for, seize, and detain any such article or droit as shall not have been reported or dealt with in the manner herein-before directed, either on shore, stranded, or afloat, and for that purpose to enter any house, store, or building, or any ship, vessel, or boat ; and every officer of the customs so seizing as aforesaid shall forthwith send to the nearest receiver a report in writing of the articles or droits so seized, and describing the marks (if any) thereon ; and every receiver or officer of the customs so seizing as aforesaid shall be entitled to salvage for the said articles or droits ; and if any such seizure shall have been made in consequence of any information given to any such receiver or officer of the customs, the person who shall give such information shall be entitled to receive such reward out of the salvage as the receiver general of droits of admiralty shall think fit to allow ; Provided always, that it shall be lawful for any receiver, as often as the case may arise when articles or droits of admiralty found within the jurisdiction of the high court of admiralty shall be carried away out of such jurisdiction, either within the limits of the cinque ports or elsewhere, to seize and carry away the same, and place them in some warehouse or other place of security, to be dealt with in the same manner as is hereby directed and provided in the case of articles which shall have been so reported as aforesaid.

7. And be it enacted, That every receiver to whom any such report shall be sent, or by whom any such seizure shall be made as aforesaid, shall within forty-eight hours send to the principal officer of the customs at the nearest port a report in writing containing an accurate description of the articles so reported or seized, and the said receiver shall also forward a report of the articles so reported to or seized by him to the secretary of the committee of Lloyd's aforesaid, and the same shall be placed by the said secretary in some conspicuous situation for the inspection of all persons choosing to inspect and examine the same ; and if the said secretary shall neglect or refuse so to place such report or copy, or any other report or copy by this act so directed to be placed, he shall for every such neglect or refusal forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds ; and the receiver shall for every such report so forwarded to the said secretary be entitled to receive of and from the owner

Receivers and officers of customs may by warrant seize goods not reported or delivered, who shall be entitled to salvage.

Informer entitled to such reward as receiver general shall allow.

Receivers to send to principal officers of customs at nearest port a report of goods reported or seized, when they amount to 20l. in value ; a copy of the report to be posted at Lloyd's.

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

of the articles in respect of which such report shall have been made, if the same be claimed, or out of the produce of the sale thereof, if the same be not claimed, the sum of ten shillings: Provided always, that no report shall be forwarded by a receiver to the said secretary until the articles for and in respect of which a report is required shall amount in value to the sum of twenty pounds at the least.

Receivers to give notice to lords of manors, &c. of the finding of wreck claimed by them.

8. And be it enacted, That as often as it shall happen that any lord or lady of any manor, or patentee or grantee of the crown, or other person or body corporate entitled to or claiming to be entitled to wreck of the sea, or to any goods found jetsam, flotsam, or lagan, shall have given notice to a receiver of such claim as herein-before directed, and that subsequently to such notice being given any article shall be reported to or seized by the same or any other receiver which may appear to such receiver to have been found within the limits of the manor or district in respect of which such notice of claim shall have been given, it shall be lawful for such receiver and he is hereby directed and required, within twenty-four hours after receiving such report or making such seizure, to send by the general post or otherwise to the said lord or lady of a manor, or patentee or grantee of the crown, or other person or body corporate having made such claim as aforesaid, or to his, her, or their bailiff, reeve, or other officer, a notice in writing setting forth an account and description of the article so reported or seized, and of the place and time when and where the same was found.

Owners of wreck may on making good their claim within twelve months have it delivered up to them.

9. And be it enacted, That if the rightful owner of any article which has been so reported to or seized by any receiver as herein-before directed shall make out his claim to the said article, to the satisfaction of the said receiver, within the period of twelve calendar months from the day on which such article shall have been so reported to or seized by the said receiver, such article shall be restored to the said owner, on payment of the duties and necessary charges attending the care or removal of the same, and a reasonable compensation for salvage thereof, and also on payment to the said receiver of a sum after the rate of five per centum on the value of the article, but in no case, whatever may be the value of the articles, shall such per-centage exceed fifty pounds.

Wreck, &c., not being claimed by the owner within twelve months, lords of manors, &c., may make good their claim within one month following.

10. And be it enacted, That when any such article as aforesaid shall have been in the custody of any receiver in manner aforesaid, and shall not be legally claimed by the owner thereof within the aforesaid space of twelve calendar months, and any lord or lady of a manor, or patentee or grantee of the crown, or other person or body corporate, having given due notice of his or her claim as herein-before required, or his, her, or their bailiff, reeve, or other officer, shall within the space of thirty days after the expiration of the said term of twelve calendar months make it appear to the said receiver, by the production of satisfactory evidence, that such article was found within the manor or district in respect of which such claim is made, it shall be lawful for the receiver and he is

hereby required and enjoined to deliver up such article to the said lord or lady of a manor, or patentee or grantee of the crown, or other person or body corporate, or his, her, or their bailiff, reeve, or other officer, on payment of the duties, and all charges and expenses attending the care or removal of the said article, together with a reasonable compensation for salvage, and also on payment to the said receiver of a sum after the rate of five per centum on the value of the article, but in no case, whatever may be the value of the articles, shall such per-centage exceed the sum of fifty pounds: Provided always, that if the receiver shall determine against the right of any person claiming to be the owner of any such article as aforesaid, or against the evidence produced by any lord or lady of a manor, or patentee or grantee of the crown, or other person or body corporate, as to the finding of any such article as aforesaid, he shall be bound, at the request of the party against whom he shall have determined respectively, to signify such determination in writing, with the date thereof and the reasons for the same.

11. And be it enacted, That when no claim to any article in the custody of any receiver or officer of customs as aforesaid shall be established, either by the owner thereof, or by any lord or lady of a manor, or patentee or grantee of the crown, or other such person or body corporate as aforesaid, within the said respective periods as aforesaid, then the said article shall be deemed and taken to be droits of admiralty, and shall be sold by the said receiver, without any legal process whatsoever, and the net proceeds thereof, after the payment of salvage, when the same shall be payable, and of the other charges, shall be forthwith transmitted by him to the said receiver general: Provided always, that when any article in the custody of any receiver or officer of customs as aforesaid shall be of so perishable a nature, or so much injured or damaged, that the same cannot, in his opinion, be kept, or if the value thereof shall not be sufficient to defray the charge of warehousing, then and in every such case it shall be lawful for the said receiver to sell the same before the expiration of the periods herein-before mentioned, and the money raised by such sale, after defraying the salvage and other expenses thereof, shall be transmitted by him to the said receiver general, and remain in the hands of the said receiver general, to abide and be subject and liable to the claims of all persons, in like manner as the article itself would remain and be subject and liable to if remaining unsold: Provided also, that it shall be lawful for any receiver, and he is hereby authorized, if he in his discretion think fit, when he shall have in his custody any article which shall not appear to him to be of greater value than five pounds, to sell the same before the expiration of the said periods, and forthwith pay salvage to the party claiming the same, and to transmit the remainder of the proceeds of such sale in the manner herein-before provided; but in every such last-mentioned case the salvor shall not be entitled to more than one third of the net produce of such sale.

12. And be it enacted, That no vice admiral or deputy vice Vice admirals

Wreck, &c., not claimed either by owner or lord of the manor to be sold as droits of admiralty.

Goods deemed perishable or of small value may be sold immediately.

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

of counties, &c., not to interfere with wreck, &c. admiral of any county, or any agent of the same, shall as such henceforth receive, take, seize or in any manner interfere with any wreck of the sea, or any other of the goods or articles herein-before mentioned.

Where salvage insufficient, lords of treasury, on application by receiver general or lord warden of cinque ports, may allow a sum for salvage.

13. And be it enacted, That as often as it shall happen, upon the sale of articles as herein-before directed, that after the payment of duties and other necessary expenses there shall not be left a sum sufficient to defray the salvage, it shall be lawful for the receiver, or, if the same shall happen within the jurisdiction of the lord warden of the cinque ports, the deputy serjeant or other officer of the said lord warden in whose respective custody the articles shall have been, to send a report, stating the circumstances, the said receiver to the said receiver general, and the said deputy serjeant or other officer to the said lord warden, as the case may be; and the commissioners of her Majesty's treasury, on receiving an application thereupon from the said receiver general or from the said lord warden, as the case may be, may and they are hereby authorized to allow such sum to be paid out of her Majesty's exchequer by way of salvage as they shall deem sufficient.

Receivers, justices, &c., or custom house officers, when any ship or vessel shall be in distress, empowered to summon men and ships to assist them.

14. And be it enacted, That when any ship or vessel whatsoever shall be in distress, or in danger of being stranded or run on shore, or shall be stranded or run on shore, every receiver, as well as all justices of the peace, and also all mayors, bailiffs, and other officers of corporations and port towns, and all constables, headboroughs, tythingmen, and officers of the customs and excise, shall summon and call together as many men as shall be thought necessary to the assistance and preservation of such ship or vessel and its cargo, or for the saving human life, and if there shall be any ship or vessel belonging to any of her Majesty's subjects, or any waggons, carts, and horses, near the place where such ship or vessel is in distress or danger as aforesaid, the said receiver and other officers herein-before mentioned, or any of them, are hereby required and empowered to demand of the superior officer of such ship or vessel assistance by boats, or such hands as can be conveniently spared, and to demand the use of any waggons, carts, and horses of the owner or person having the charge thereof, for the service and preservation of the said ship or vessel in distress as aforesaid, and her cargo, or for the saving human life; and every such superior officer, owner, or person refusing or neglecting to comply immediately with such demand shall for every such refusal or neglect forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding one hundred pounds.

Penalty for refusal,

As to persons empowered to give orders in case of a vessel stranded.

15. And be it enacted, That for the prevention of confusion among persons assembled to save any ship or vessel in distress as aforesaid, or any of the goods or effects belonging thereto, all persons so assembled shall conform, in the first place, to the orders of the master or owner or officer in charge of the said ship or vessel in distress, and in the next place to those of the receiver, and for want of their presence to those of the officers herein-after mentioned, in the following subordination, as any of such officers

shall be present; (that is to say,) first the officers of customs or coast guard, then those of the excise, then of the sheriff or his deputy, then any justice of the peace, then any mayor or chief magistrate of any corporation, then any coroner, then any chief constable, then any petty constable or peace officer; and any person whomsoever acting knowingly or wilfully contrary to such orders shall, on conviction before one justice of the peace, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding fifty pounds.

16. And be it enacted, That any receiver, or in his absence any justice of the peace, shall as soon as conveniently may be examine upon oath (which oath they are hereby respectively empowered to administer) any person belonging to any ship or vessel which may be or may have been in distress, or others who may be able to give any account thereof, or of the cargo or stores thereof, as to the name or description of the said ship or vessel, and the names of the master, commander, or chief officer and owners thereof, and of the owner of the said cargo, and of the ports or places from or to which the said ship or vessel was bound and the occasion of the said ship's distress, and of the services rendered, and as to any other matter or circumstance relating to the said ship or cargo, or any of the stores thereof, as the said receiver or justice may think fit and necessary; and the said receiver or justice shall take the said examination down in writing, and shall make two copies of the same, the one of which he shall send to the said receiver general, and the other to the secretary of the committee of Lloyd's aforesaid, and the said copy shall be placed by the said secretary in some conspicuous situation, in like manner as herein-before directed with respect to other reports so to be made to the said secretary as aforesaid; and for every such examination by a receiver he shall be entitled to receive from the owner of the said vessel or cargo, or out of the produce of the sale thereof, the sum of one pound; and it shall be lawful for the said receiver or for any officer of the customs, at the request in writing of the said receiver, to detain such vessel or cargo until the said sum be paid: Provided always, that if any person belonging to the said ship or vessel, or otherwise, shall refuse to be so examined by the said receiver or justice as aforesaid, he shall for every such refusal forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding fifty pounds.

17. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the receiver at that part of the coast where any ship or vessel shall be stranded or wrecked, or where any wreck of the sea or goods shall be cast on shore, and also for the owner or master of any such ship or vessel, and for the owners of any such goods or of any part thereof, and for any officer of the customs, coast guard, or excise and other officer, and for all persons whomsoever employed or acting in aid of or in the assisting of any such receiver, officer, master or owner as aforesaid, in the saving or recovering any such ship or vessel, or the cargo, stores, tackle or other article belonging to the same, or the preserving the lives of the crew or persons belonging thereto, or of any wreck as aforesaid, to pass and repass

Examination
on oath of ship's
name, cargo,
&c. before re-
ceiver, and a
copy to be sent
to receiver gene-
ral.

Receiver enti-
tled to 1*l.* for
every examina-
tion.

Persons re-
fusing to be ex-
amined to for-
feit 50*l.*

Carriges allow-
ed to pass over
the lands near
the coast for the
preservation of
wreck, &c.

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

with their horses, carts, carriages or servants, doing as little damage as possible, over any lands, pier, jetty, wharf or landing place near to the part of the sea coast where such vessel shall be so wrecked or stranded, or on which such wreck shall be cast without interruption or obstruction by the owner or occupier thereof, for the purpose of saving, recovering and preserving any such ship or vessel, or goods or stores, or any boat, cables, timbers, spars, masts, cordage, or other tackle or article belonging to any ship or vessel, or for saving or otherwise assisting in preserving the lives of any persons, or for the taking possession of any wreck or goods or other article cast on shore, or found on shore, or found near thereto, provided there shall be no road by which the parties may pass and repass with as much convenience and expedition as over such lands, pier, jetty, wharf or landing place, and also to place any planks, timber, or any part of the wreck, or any goods or stores or other article removed or saved from any such ship or vessel, or any other wreck or goods or other article as aforesaid, upon any such land, pier, jetty, wharf or landing place, for a reasonable time until they can be removed to some warehouse or safe place of deposit, doing as little damage as possible, and making compensation to the occupier of such land, pier, jetty, wharf or landing place for any damage done by all or any the means aforesaid, which compensation shall be a charge upon the wreck, goods or other article in respect whereof the damage may be done, in like manner as salvage; and in case the parties cannot agree as to the amount thereof, then the same shall be ascertained and settled in any of the manners and within such times as the amount of salvage is herein directed to be ascertained and settled.

Compensation to land occupiers to be settled in the same manner as salvage.

Penalty on land occupiers refusing to allow carriages, &c. to pass over their lands.

Reasonable salvage to be allowed to persons saving ships or goods.

18. And be it enacted, That if any owner or occupier of any land or premises over which any person is authorized by this act to pass and repass for any of the purposes herein-before mentioned shall interrupt, impede or hinder any such person from passing over his land or premises, with or without horses, carts, carriages or servants, for the purposes herein-before mentioned or any of them, by locking his gates, or refusing upon request to open the same, or otherwise, or shall obstruct or hinder the placing any such plank, timber, part of a wreck, goods, stores, or other article upon his land, pier, jetty, wharf or landing place, or shall prevent their remaining there for a reasonable time until the same can be removed to some warehouse or safe place of public deposit, such owner or occupier shall for every such offence forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding one hundred pounds.

19. And be it enacted, That every person (except receivers under this act) who shall act or be employed in any way whatsoever in the saving or preserving of any ship or vessel in distress, or of any part of the cargo thereof, or of the life of any person on board the same, or of any wreck of the sea, or of any goods jetsam, flotsam, lagan or derelict, or of any anchors, cables, tackle, stores or materials which may have belonged to any ship

or vessel, whether the said ship or vessel shall have been in distress or otherwise, and whether such person shall have so acted at the request of or on application by any person in authority, or by the master or owner of any ship or vessel, or otherwise, shall within fourteen days after the service so performed, or within fourteen days after the owner or any other person shall have established his claim to any such article as aforesaid, be paid a reasonable reward or compensation by way of salvage for such service, by the commander, master, or other superior officer, mariners, or owner of the said ship or vessel, or their agent, or by the merchant whose ship, vessel or cargo shall be so saved as aforesaid, or by the owner of the other articles herein-before mentioned, or other person claiming the same; and in default thereof the said ship or vessel, or any part of the cargo remaining on board thereof, so saved as aforesaid, shall remain in the custody of the High Court of Admiralty, and the said goods or other article (and also, until warrant issued from the High Court of Admiralty, the said ship, vessel or cargo,) shall remain in the custody of the receiver or officer of the customs until the person so acting or employed in the preservation of such ship or vessel goods or other article as aforesaid, shall have been reasonably compensated for his said assistance and trouble, or reasonable security given for that purpose to the satisfaction of the said receiver, or officer of the customs, or High Court of Admiralty: Provided always, that every receiver who shall act or be employed in the saving or preserving of any ship or vessel in distress which shall not become a droit of admiralty shall be entitled to receive from the owner thereof the sum of two pounds for the first day, and the further sum of one pound for every subsequent day on which he shall be employed in the said service, if the said ship or vessel, together with the cargo thereof, shall be of or above the value of six hundred pounds, and the said receiver shall be entitled to a moiety of such respective sums if the said ship and cargo shall be under the value of six hundred pounds; and the said ship or vessel shall be so detained as aforesaid until such sums shall have been paid to the said receiver.

Proviso.

20. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said receiver general to make rules, and vary and alter the same, from time to time, as he may think proper, for regulating the rate of salvage to be paid by the receivers when any ship, vessel, boat, apparel, anchor, cable, tackle, stores, materials, goods, merchandise or other article whatsoever shall not be proved to belong to any owner or other person, and shall be sold as droits of admiralty in manner herein-before directed.

Receiver general may make rules for regulating salvage in certain cases.

21. And be it enacted, That if any person shall have rendered any service (except ordinary pilotage) in the saving or preserving of any ship or vessel in distress, or of the cargo thereof, or of the life of any person on board the same, or of any wreck of the sea, goods or other article herein-before mentioned, which shall not become droits of admiralty, and the said person, and the master or owner of such ship or vessel, or his agent, or the owner

If owners and salvors disagree respecting salvage, two justices, or a person nominated by them, may determine the same.

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

of such article, or his agent, cannot agree upon the amount of salvage or compensation to be paid in respect of such service, then such person shall deliver to such master, owner or agent a statement in writing, without prejudice to either party, of the amount of salvage or compensation claimed for such services, and (unless such salvage shall have been already paid by any receiver under the powers herein-before contained, or the claim thereto shall exceed the sum of two hundred pounds,) the matter or difference may be determined by any two justices of the peace residing at or near to the place where such service has been rendered, within forty-eight hours after such difference shall be referred to them for their determination thereof, and if they cannot agree respecting the same then it shall be lawful for them to nominate any third person conversant in maritime affairs, at their option, who shall ascertain the amount of salvage to be paid within forty-eight hours after he shall be so nominated as aforesaid ; and the said justices and such third person so nominated as aforesaid shall have full power and authority, whenever they see occasion, to examine the parties or their witnesses upon oath, which oath they or any one of them are and is hereby authorized to administer ; and it shall be lawful for the person so to be nominated by the said justices, who shall decide on the amount of salvage to be paid as aforesaid, to demand and receive of and from the owner of the ship or vessel aforesaid, or of the article so saved as aforesaid, or of the salvors or their respective agents, a sum of money not exceeding two pounds two shillings ; and such owner, or his agent, or such salvors, at the discretion of the said justices or person appointed by them as aforesaid, are hereby required to pay the same to the person so nominated as aforesaid immediately after he shall have made his award or decision, and such sum of two pounds two shillings, and such amount of salvage, may be recovered as any penalty imposed by this act : Provided always, that when the salvage claim shall exceed the sum of two hundred pounds, then and in every such case the said matter or difference shall, in the event of no such agreement being made as aforesaid, either by reference to arbitration or otherwise, be determined exclusively by the High Court of Admiralty.

Admiralty may appoint Salvage Commissioners to determine differences where they think fit, and appoint a secretary, &c.

22. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Admiralty to nominate and appoint, in such ports or towns and for such districts as in their discretion they may think fit, three or more proper persons for each port, town or district respectively, to be called Commissioners of Salvage, who, or any three or more of them, shall have power to adjust and determine any difference respecting salvage, in the same manner and in such cases as the justices herein-before in that respect mentioned, and also to nominate and appoint a proper person to act as secretary or registrar to the said commissioners, and which secretary or registrar shall enter in a book kept for that purpose all the proceedings of such commissioners, and also a copy of the awards which they shall have from time to time made ; and the said

Commissioners of Salvage, or any three or more of them, shall have the power of examining on oath, and all other the same power and authorities as are herein-before given to the said justices, and to the person to be by them nominated as aforesaid ; and such Commissioners of Salvage, or any three or more of them, who shall decide in any such case as aforesaid, and their secretary or registrar, may and they are hereby authorized to demand of and from the owner of any ship or vessel or of any article against whom any person may make any claim or demand for service rendered on preserving the same, and such owner or salvors is and are hereby required to pay such fee or reward for deciding on every such claim as shall be regulated and appointed in that behalf by the Commissioners of the Treasury ; and the said Commissioners of Salvage, or any three or more of them, shall have the power to commit for contempt.

Commissioners empowered to examine on oath.

23. And be it enacted, That in case any person so claiming to be entitled to salvage or compensation for services rendered as aforesaid, or the person against whom such claim is made, or his agent, shall be dissatisfied with such award and decision of the said justices or person so to be nominated by them as aforesaid, or of the said Commissioners of Salvage, it shall be lawful for either of them respectively, within ten days after such award shall have been made, but not afterwards, to notify to such justices, or to the said Commissioners of Salvage, as the case may be, his desire of obtaining the judgment of the High Court of Admiralty respecting the said salvage or compensation, and thereupon such person shall forthwith proceed by taking out a monition within thirty days from the date of such award ; but in such case the receiver or officer of the customs in whose custody such ship, vessel, goods, or other article in respect of which such claim of salvage has been made shall have been detained as aforesaid is hereby required and empowered to release such ship or vessel, and to deliver to the owner or proprietor, or his agent, such goods or other article, upon the said owner or proprietor or his agent giving good and sufficient bail in double the amount of the sum awarded for salvage or compensation, or if no sum shall have been so awarded, then to such amount as the said receiver shall deem sufficient, and which bail the said receiver is hereby authorized to take and certify according to the form contained in the schedule (A) hereunto annexed, and transmit the same without delay to the said receiver general, together with a true certificate in writing of the gross value of the article respecting which salvage shall be claimed, and also a copy of such proceedings and award, on unstamped paper, certified under the hand of the said receiver taking such bail as aforesaid, and the same shall be admitted by the said Court of Admiralty as evidence in the cause ; and the said receiver shall for every such certificate be entitled to receive from the owner of such ship or vessel, goods or other article, or his agents, or from the proceeds of the sale thereof, the sum of one pound one shilling.

Parties dissatisfied may appeal to High Court of Admiralty, and goods to be restored to owner on giving bail.

24. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted, That after any such award has been made, either by the said justices or person nominated by them, or by the said Commissioners of Salvage as

Receiver, where award by Commissioners of Salvage has

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

been made, empowered to sell ship or goods, &c. in case of refusal of owner to comply with terms of award, or of neglect to appeal.

aforesaid, and the owner of such ship or vessel, goods or other article, in respect of which such award of salvage is made, or his agent, shall refuse or neglect either to pay the same, or to give notice of such appeal, or to take out such monition as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the receiver, at or nearest to the place where such award has been made, and he is hereby required, within twenty days after the making of the said award, and on production of the same, to sell the property contained in such ship or vessel, or the said goods or other articles, as the case may be, or such and so many of the same as in his opinion will be sufficient to defray the salvage, and the costs and charges relating thereto, paying the surplus, if any, to the owner or owners thereof: provided also, that in all cases which shall be decided by any justices of the peace, or their nominee, or by the said Commissioners of Salvage, the High Court of Admiralty shall only have jurisdiction as a court of appeal, in accordance with the provisions of this act, or for the purpose of enforcing payment of the sum awarded.

Commissioners or justices to appoint to whom salvage to be paid for distribution between two or more persons.

25. And be it enacted, That whenever any sum to be paid for any such services as aforesaid, either voluntarily or in consequence of any agreement, or of any arbitration, or of any award made by any such justices or by the said Commissioners of Salvage as aforesaid, or, within the jurisdiction of the cinque ports, by any commissioners, shall be distributable between two or more persons, such sum shall be paid to such person as shall be appointed by the justices or commissioners in and by their award, or by the arbitrator making any award, or under any agreement which may have been made, or in default of any such appointment, then to the master or owner of the boat, ship, or vessel having rendered the services, or his agent, or to some person nominated in writing by or on behalf of the majority of the persons among whom such sum is distributable; and every person to whom any such sum shall be paid shall, within three days after the same shall have been paid, or as soon after as may be, proceed to make allotment thereof among the several persons interested in the distribution thereof, and to give notice in the form contained in the schedule (B.) to this act annexed to each person of the whole sum so paid,

Duties of distributor.

and of the share thereof allotted to him; and within thirty days after the sum shall have been so paid, or within twenty-eight days after such notice shall have been given, and not afterwards, it shall be lawful for any person claiming a share of the said sum who shall think himself aggrieved, either by no allotment having been made, or by no notice thereof having been given to him within ten days after the sum shall have been so paid, or by the insufficiency of the share allotted to him, or otherwise, to apply, if the share so allotted, or if no share shall be so allotted, then if the share claimed by him shall be under twenty pounds, to the justices or commissioners who may have determined such salvage case, or within whose jurisdiction such salvage case may have occurred, who shall have full power to adjudge the due distribution of the sum so paid as aforesaid, and the shares of the different parties entitled thereto, which shares may then be recovered from the person to whom

In case of delay or injustice, aggrieved parties to apply to justices or commissioners, or to High Court of Admiralty.

such sum shall have been so paid, in like manner as is hereby provided for the recovery of any penalty under this act ; and if the share which shall be so allotted, or, if no share has been allotted, which shall be so claimed by the person so thinking himself aggrieved as aforesaid, shall amount to twenty pounds, then it shall be lawful for such person, within the said term of thirty days or the said term of twenty-eight days (but not afterwards), to apply to the judge of the High Court of Admiralty, or his surrogate, for a monition against the person to whom the said sum has been so paid as aforesaid, to bring the said sum or any part thereof which shall appear not to have been duly distributed into the registry of the said court, and appear, and abide the judgment of the said court concerning the distribution thereof ; and the judge of the said court, or his surrogate, shall, on due cause shown, issue such monition, and the said court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the same, and to adjudge the due distribution of such sum accordingly ; and in the case of an award the person by whom such award shall have been made shall, upon monition, send in without delay to the said court a copy of the proceedings before him, and of the award, on unstamped paper, witnessed under his hand, and the same shall be admitted by the court as evidence in the cause ; and the amount so awarded, or such part as shall appear not to have been duly distributed, shall be paid to the parties suing out such monition, or distributed according to the judgment of the said court.

26. And be it enacted, That whenever it shall appear that any sum which has been awarded or voluntarily agreed to be paid for salvage services shall have been duly paid by the master or owner of any ship, vessel, or goods to which such service shall have been so rendered, or his agent, to the appointee of the justices or commissioners or of the arbitrator making any award, or under any agreement, or in default of such appointment to the master or owner of the boat, ship, or vessel having rendered such services, or to the person nominated as aforesaid, as the case may be, then and in every such case any person claiming any share in such sum who may think himself aggrieved by the insufficiency of the share allotted to him, or otherwise shall be precluded from enforcing such claim against the ship, vessel, or goods to which such services shall have been rendered, or the owner thereof : Provided always, that any party who shall claim to be entitled to any sum which shall remain undistributed in the hands of any person to whom the same may have been paid may, within twelve months after such payment, have the same remedies for the recovery of such sum from the person to whom the same shall have been paid as are herein-before provided respecting the recovery of shares in any sum paid for salvage services after adjudication of the distribution thereof.

27. And be it enacted, That when any sum shall be paid for any such salvage as aforesaid, either voluntarily or in consequence of any award having been made in manner aforesaid, or security given for the payment thereof, and it shall appear that any ship or vessel, goods or other article, in respect of the saving of which

After sum awarded for salvage services shall have been paid, persons feeling aggrieved by insufficiency of share precluded from enforcing claim against ship, &c. to which services were rendered.

Account of sums received for salvage to be sent to receiver, and by him to receiver general.

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

such sum shall have been so paid or such security given, shall be detained in the custody of any officer of the customs or of the High Court of Admiralty (as the case may be) as aforesaid, it shall not be lawful for the said officer or the said court to permit such ship or vessel to depart, or to give up such goods or other article, until the production of a writing signed by the persons to whom such salvage shall be payable, or some or one of them, which shall contain a description of such ship or vessel, or goods or other article, together with an account of the sums that have been so paid, or of the security given for the same; and the said officer or the court (as the case may be) shall send a copy of such writing to the nearest receiver, who shall transmit the same, or a copy thereof, to the said receiver general.

Persons cutting away or defacing buoy ropes deemed guilty of felony.

28. And be it enacted, That if any person shall wilfully cut away, cast adrift, remove, alter, deface, sink or destroy, or shall do or commit any act with intent and design to cut away, cast adrift, remove, alter, deface, sink or destroy, or in any other way injure or conceal any boat, buoy, buoy rope or mark, such person so offending shall, on being convicted of any such offence, be deemed and adjudged to be guilty of felony, and shall be liable to be transported for any term not exceeding seven years, or imprisoned for any number of years not exceeding three, with or without hard labour, at the discretion of the court in which such conviction shall have taken place.

Persons fraudulently purchasing anchors, &c. to be considered receivers of stolen goods.

29. And be it enacted, That if any person shall knowingly or wilfully, and with intent to defraud the true owner thereof, or any person interested therein, purchase or receive any boat, anchor, cable, goods or merchandize which may have been taken up, weighed, swept for, or taken possession of, if the provisions herein-before contained with regard to such articles shall not have been previously complied with, such person shall on conviction thereof be deemed guilty of receiving stolen goods, knowing the same to be stolen, and shall be punished accordingly.

Masters of ships finding vessels, anchors, &c. to make entry in log book, and report to receiver general, and on their return or arrival to deliver the articles to the nearest receiver.

30. And be it enacted, That in case the master, mate, crew or passenger of any ship or vessel shall find or take in tow or on board of such ship or vessel, any vessel, boat, anchor, cable or any goods, merchandize, or other article, or shall receive any vessel, boat, anchor, cable, or any goods, merchandize or other article from any other person who may have found the same, knowing the same to have been so found, the master, mate or other person having the command of such ship or vessel shall, on the return or arrival of such vessel to any port in the United Kingdom, place the said article at the disposal of the receiver in or nearest to such port at which he shall first arrive, and within twenty-four hours of his arrival, with a report in writing containing an accurate description of the said articles, and the marks, if any, thereon, and the time when, and the bearings and distances and other minute descriptions of the place where the same were found or taken on board; and such receiver is hereby required to transmit such report to the secretary of the committee of Lloyd's aforesaid, to be placed by him for inspection, in like manner as

Articles to be reported by receiver, and if not claimed to be sold.

herein-before provided with respect to copies of other reports ; and if the said article shall not be claimed by the owner thereof, or his agent, within twelve calendar months after such report shall be transmitted to the said secretary, the same shall be sold and disposed of by the said receiver, and the proceeds of such sale remain and be dealt with in the manner herein-before directed with respect to other unclaimed articles ; and if the master of such ship or vessel, or such other person, shall not report, or place at the disposal of the said receiver, such vessel, boat, anchor, cable, goods, merchandize, or other article, according to the provisions of this act, he shall for every such offence forfeit all claim to salvage, and on being thereof convicted before any justice of the peace forfeit and pay one hundred pounds, and shall also Penalty on defaulters 100£

forfeit and pay double the value of any such article to the owner thereof if claimed, or to her Majesty if the same become droits of admiralty, which double value may be recovered in the same manner as a penalty under this act.

31. And be it enacted, That every person who shall convey, take, or tow to any foreign port or place any vessel, boat, anchor, chain, cable, or other article which may have been so found, weighed, swept for, received, or taken as aforesaid, and there sell or otherwise dispose of the same, shall be guilty of felony, and shall be transported for any term not exceeding seven years.

32. And be it enacted, That all persons who shall trade or deal in buying and selling anchors, cables, sails, or old junk, old iron, or marine stores of any kind or description, shall have their names, with the words "dealer in marine stores," painted distinctly in letters of not less than six inches in length upon the front of all their storehouses, warehouses, and other places of deposit for such goods, and in default of their so doing they shall, on conviction before any justice of the peace or any magistrate of any jurisdiction where such storehouse, warehouse, or dépôt shall be, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding twenty pounds ; and it shall not be lawful for such dealers or traders to cut up any cable, or any part of a cable exceeding five fathoms in length, or uncant, untwine, or unlay the same into junk or paper stuff, on any pretence whatsoever, without first obtaining a permit from a justice of the peace, or the receiver residing nearest to the residence of such dealer, which permit shall not be granted unless a declaration shall have been made before a justice of the peace that the cable or other articles so intended to be cut up had been bona fide purchased, and without fraud, by the party so intending to cut up the same, and without any knowledge or suspicion on his part that the same had been dishonestly come by, and in which declaration shall also be specified the peculiar quality and description of such cable or other article, and the name of the seller thereof ; which declaration shall be recited and set forth at length upon the permit thereupon granted, on pain of forfeiting for the first offence any sum not exceeding twenty pounds, and for the second or further offence any sum not exceeding fifty pounds.

33. And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any dealer in marine stores, or any person employed by him, to dealers in ma-

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

rine stores
purchasing
anchors, &c.
from persons
under 14 years
of age.

Dealers to keep
an account of
old stores
bought, to ad-
vertise before
cutting up
cordage, and
to allow an
inspection
of their books.

Penalty for
neglect or
refusal.

Manufacturers
to place marks
on anchors and
kedge anchors.

Penalty for
neglect.

purchase anchors, cables, sails, or old junk or iron, or marine stores of any kind or description whatsoever, of or from any person who shall not have attained the age of fourteen years, on pain of forfeiting for the first offence any sum not exceeding five pounds, and for the second or further offence any sum not exceeding twenty pounds.

34. And be it enacted, That for the more effectual prevention of such frauds all dealers in such marine stores as aforesaid shall keep a book or books fairly written, in which entries shall be from time to time regularly made of all such old marine stores as shall be by them from time to time bought or otherwise obtained, containing a true account and description of the times when the same were so respectively bought or otherwise obtained by them, and of the names and places of abode of the respective sellers thereof, or of the parties from whom the same shall have been obtained ; and before any person who shall obtain such permit as herein-before mentioned for the cutting up of any such cable or other article shall proceed to cut up the same by virtue thereof, there shall be published, by the space of one week at least before the cutting up of the same, one or more advertisements in some public newspaper printed nearest to the storehouse, warehouse, or dépôt where the article shall be deposited, notifying that such party had obtained such permit for the purpose of cutting up such cable or other article, and of such kind and quality as therein described, and also specifying the place where such articles are deposited ; whereupon it shall be lawful for every person who may have just cause to suspect that such articles are his property, and shall have verified upon oath the fact of such suspicion before any justice of the peace or magistrate residing near the said storehouse, warehouse, or dépôt, by warrant for that purpose thereupon granted, to require of and from such dealer who shall have so advertised as aforesaid the production and examination of the book of entries hereby required to be kept, and to inspect and examine the cables and other articles described in such permit ; and in case any such dealer, when so required as aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse to produce such book of entries, or shall neglect to keep any such book of entries, or shall refuse to permit such inspection or examination as aforesaid, or shall, after obtaining such permit for the cutting up of any such cable or other article, or before cutting up the same, neglect to publish such advertisement as aforesaid, he shall for every such first offence forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding twenty pounds, and for every such second or further offence any sum not exceeding fifty pounds.

35. And be it enacted, That every manufacturer of anchors and kedge anchors shall place his name or initials, together with a progressive number, and also the weight of every anchor, in legible characters upon the crown and also upon the shank under the stock of each anchor respectively which he shall manufacture ; and in case any such manufacturer shall neglect to place such name, number, or weight in the manner herein-before directed and required, he shall for every such neglect forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding five pounds.

36. And be it enacted, That any penalty imposed by this act ^{Recovery of} may be recovered by information or action of debt in any of her ^{penalties.} Majesty's courts, or by information or complaint before any justice of the peace or magistrate of any jurisdiction residing near the place in which the offence has been committed for which such penalty is sought to be recovered, or where the offender may at any time happen to be, and (except where the contrary is so expressed) one half of the said penalties shall go to the informer, and the other half to the receiver general of droits of admiralty, to be applied by him in like manner as the proceeds arising from such droits, any thing in an act passed in the sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An ^{5 & 6 W. 4,} Act to provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in ^{c. 76.} England and Wales," or in any other act of parliament, to the contrary notwithstanding; and in case any of the said penalties, on conviction by any justice of the peace or magistrate, shall not be paid, with the charges incident to the conviction, immediately upon such conviction, the same shall and may (except in the case herein-after mentioned) be levied, by warrant under the hand and seal of such justice or magistrate, upon the goods and chattels of any such offender; and in case no sufficient distress shall be found then every such offender shall and may be committed by any justice or magistrate as aforesaid to gaol, with or without hard labour, in case of any first offence for any period not exceeding six calendar months, and in case of any second or further offence for any period not exceeding twelve calendar months, unless the said penalty and the charges shall be sooner paid; and for the more easy and speedy conviction of such offenders, every such justice or magistrate before whom any person shall be convicted of any offence against this act shall and may cause the conviction to be drawn up according to the following form; (videlicet,)

'Be it remembered, That on the day of in the year of ^{Form of} conviction.
'our Lord A. B. is convicted before me [or us.] one [or two,
'as the case may be] of her Majesty's justices of the peace for the
'[here specify the offence, and the time and place when and where
'committed, as the case may be], contrary to an act passed in the
'year of the reign of Queen Victoria, intituled [here insert the
'title of this act]. Given under my hand and seal [or our hands
'and seals], the year and day first above written.'

And no certiorari or other writ or process for the removal of any such conviction, or any proceedings thereon, into any of her Majesty's courts of record at Westminster or elsewhere, shall be allowed or granted.

37. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any person so convicted by any justice of the peace or magistrate before mentioned of any offence against this act, within three calendar months next after such conviction to appeal to the justices of the peace assembled at the general quarter sessions holden for the county, city, or place where the matter of appeal shall arise, first giving ten days notice of such appeal to such justices of the peace or magistrate, and of the matter thereof, and entering into a recog-

^{Persons con-}
^{victed may}
^{appeal to}
^{quarter sessions,}
^{giving notice}
^{of the same.}

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

nizance before some justice of the peace for such county, city, or place, with two sufficient sureties, conditioned to try such appeal, and for abiding the determination of the court therein ; and such justices at the general quarter sessions shall, upon due proof of such notice having been given and recognizances entered into, hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and may either confirm or quash and annul the said conviction, and award such costs to either party, as to them shall seem just and reasonable; and the decision of the said justices therein shall be final, binding, and conclusive ; and no proceeding to be had or taken in pursuance of this act shall be quashed or vacated for want of form only, or be removed by certiorari, or any other writ or process whatsoever, into any of her Majesty's courts at Westminster or elsewhere ; any law or statute to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Offences to be tried in the county where committed, or where offender resides.

38. And be it enacted, That all felonies, misdemeanors, and other offences against this act, except in the case of summary convictions, may be laid to be committed and may be tried in any city, county, or place where any such article, matter, or thing in relation to which such offence shall have been committed shall have been found in the possession of the person committing the offence, or the offender may at any time happen to be.

Goods saved from vessels wrecked to be forwarded to the ports of their original destination.

39. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful to and for the commissioners of customs and excise, and they are hereby required, to permit all goods, wares, and merchandize saved from any vessel stranded or wrecked on its homeward voyage to be forwarded to the port of its original destination, and also to permit goods, wares, and merchandize saved from any vessel stranded or wrecked on their respective outward voyage to be returned to the port at which the same were shipped ; but such commissioners are to take security for the due protection of the revenue in respect of such goods, wares, and merchandize.

High Court of Admiralty may decide in all salvage cases, whether on sea or land.

40. And be it enacted, That the High Court of Admiralty shall have jurisdiction to decide, in manner herein-before mentioned, upon all claims and demands whatsoever in the nature of salvage for services performed, except in cases of goods herein-before directed to be sold as droits of admiralty, whether in the case of ships or vessels, or of any goods or articles found either at sea or cast upon the shore, and whether such services shall have been performed upon the high seas or within the body of any county, any thing in any act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

In case of damage done by a foreign vessel, a judge may order its arrest, unless owner undertake to appear in an action.

41. And be it enacted, That in every case in which any damage shall be done by any foreign ship or vessel to any ship or vessel, barge, boat, or other craft belonging to her Majesty, or any of her subjects, whether abroad or otherwise, or to any buoy or beacon in any harbour, port, river, or creek, or within three miles of the coast of the united kingdom, and it shall appear on a summary application made to any judge of any of her Majesty's courts of record at Westminster or elsewhere, or to the judge of the High Court of Admiralty respectively, that such damage or loss has probably been sustained or arisen by the misconduct or negligence of the master or mariners of such foreign ship or ves-

sel, then and in every such case it shall be lawful for any such judge to cause such foreign ship or vessel, being in any harbour, port, river, or creek, or other place within three miles of the coast of the united kingdom, to be arrested and detained until the master or owner or consignee of such ship or vessel shall undertake to appear and be defendant in any action which may be brought for such loss or damage, and give such sufficient security, by bail or otherwise, for all costs and damages, if recovered, as shall be directed and ordered by such judge, if it shall upon the trial of such action or suit appear that such loss or damage shall have arisen from such negligence or misconduct as aforesaid ; and in such action or suit the person giving security shall be made defendant, and shall be stated to be the owner of the foreign ship or vessel doing such damage ; and it shall not be necessary in any such action or suit to give any other evidence of the liability of such person to such suit or action than the production of the order of the judge made in relation to such security as aforesaid ; and any collector or comptroller of the customs shall, upon notice served upon him of the fact of such application having been made as aforesaid, have power and is hereby required to detain such ship or vessel until the result of such application shall be made known.

42. And be it enacted, That within the jurisdiction of the cinque ports every serjeant of the lord warden of the cinque ports and his deputy shall have the same power and authority, and be liable to the same duties and services, as are herein-before enacted with respect to the said receivers of droits of admiralty, and all provisions in this act contained relating to such receivers shall, within the jurisdiction aforesaid, extend and apply to the said serjeants and their deputies in as full and ample a manner as if the same were now again in that behalf set forth and repeated ; save and except that the reports herein-before directed to be sent by the said receivers to the said receiver general shall, within the jurisdiction of the cinque ports, be sent by the said serjeants or deputy serjeants to the said lord warden ; and every fee or other gratuity to be paid to the said serjeants or deputy serjeants shall be regulated according to the judgment of the said lord warden for the time being,

Serjeants
and deputy
serjeants of the
cinque ports to
have the same
powers and
liable to the
same duties
as receivers.

43. Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing whatsoever in this act contained shall extend or be construed to extend so as in any manner to affect, impeach, alter, abridge, or interfere with the rights, privileges, authority, or jurisdiction of the said lord warden, or of the said cinque ports, two ancient towns and members thereof, or in any manner to affect, repeal, or interfere with the provisions of an act passed in the first and second years of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled " An Act to continue and amend certain Acts for preventing the various Frauds and Depredations committed on Merchant Ship-owners by Boatmen and others within the Jurisdiction of the Cinque Ports ; and also for remedying certain Defects relative to the Adjustment of Salvage under a Statute made in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen Anne."

Reservation of
rights of the
lord warden and
of the cinque
ports.

Act not to
interfere with
the 1 & 2 G. 4.
c. 76.

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

In case of
vessels wrecked
being plundered
by a tumultuous
assemblage, the
hundred to be
liable for
damages.

7 & 8 G. 4,
c. 31.

3 & 4 W. 4,
c. 37.

Penalty on per-
sons wrongfully
carrying off
wreck, or
boarding ships
without leave,
or hindering
the saving of
ships or goods.

44. And be it enacted, That if any ship or vessel which may be in distress, wrecked, or stranded, or run on shore, or any part of the cargo thereof, shall be plundered, damaged, or destroyed, wholly or in part, near to or on any of the coasts of England, Wales, or Ireland, or in any of the harbours, havens, rivers, creeks, or bays thereof, by any persons riotously and tumultuously assembled together, whether on shore or afloat, in every such case the inhabitants of the hundred, wapentake, ward, barony, half barony, or other district in the nature of a hundred, by whatever name it shall be denominated, in which or nearest to which the said offence shall be committed, shall be liable to yield full compensation to the owner of such ship or vessel, or of the cargo or any part of the cargo thereof, in the same manner in England and Wales as is provided in cases of the destruction of churches and other buildings by a riotous assemblage by an act passed in the session of parliament holden in the seventh and eighth years of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled "An Act for consolidating and amending the Laws in England relative to Remedies against the Hundred;" and all the clauses and provisions contained in the said last-mentioned act shall be held to apply to all such cases of plundering, damaging, or destroying any such ship or vessel, or the cargo thereof, by any such riotous assemblage as aforesaid, as fully and effectually and to all intents and purposes as if the said several clauses and provisions had been particularly repeated and re-enacted in the body of this act; and in Ireland compensation shall be recovered, and presented, apploated, levied, and paid over to the said owner, in like manner and by like proceedings as are provided for by the recovery of satisfaction and amends for the malicious demolition of or injury to churches, chapels, and other buildings used for religious worship according to the usage of the united church of England and Ireland, by an act passed in the session of parliament holden in the third and fourth years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act to alter and amend the Laws relating to the Temporalities of the Church in Ireland," or by any act amending the same.

45. And be it enacted, That every person who shall wrongfully carry away or remove any part of any ship or vessel which shall be in distress, or wrecked, stranded, or cast on shore, or any goods, merchandize, or article of any kind belonging to such ship or vessel, or (unless the same person shall be a receiver or other officer, or justice, herein-before authorized to give orders in cases of wreck as aforesaid,) shall enter or endeavour to enter on board of any such ship or vessel as aforesaid, without the consent or leave of the master, commander, or other superior officer thereof, or of a receiver or other officer so authorized to give orders in cases of wreck, or shall molest or impede any person employed in the saving of such ship or vessel or goods as aforesaid, or shall endeavour to impede or hinder the saving of any ship or vessel or goods as aforesaid, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding fifty pounds; and where any such person shall have been detained, or taken before any justice of the peace,

in such offence, it shall be lawful for such justice of the peace to proceed summarily on the case without any information, to convict such person of such offence, and in default of payment of such penalty to commit such person to any of her Majesty's gaols for any time not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour; and it shall be lawful for the said master, commander, or superior officer of the said ship or vessel so in distress as aforesaid, or the said receiver or other officer hereinbefore authorized to give order in cases of wreck, respectively to compel by force any such person as shall, without such leave or consent as aforesaid, press on board such ship or vessel: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to repeal or in anywise affect or alter any provision contained in an act passed in the seventh year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth and first year of the reign of her present Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to amend the Laws relating to Robbery and stealing from the Person."

6. Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing in this section contained shall be construed to alter or repeal any of the clauses or provisions contained in an act passed in the sixth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled "An Act for the Amendment of the Law respecting Pilots and Pilot-boats; and also for the better Preservation of floating Lights, Buoys, and Beacons;" nor any of the clauses or provisions contained in an act passed in the session of parliament holden in the tenth and eighth years of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled "An Act for consolidating and amending the Laws in England relative to Larceny and other Offences connected therewith;" nor any of the clauses or provisions contained in an act passed in the ninth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled "An Act consolidating and amending the Laws in Ireland relative to Larceny, and other Offences connected therewith;" nor any of the clauses or provisions contained in an act passed in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of her present Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to carry into effect a Convention between His Majesty and the King of the French concerning the Fisheries of the Seas between the British Islands and France;" nor any of the clauses or provisions contained in an act passed in the parliament of Ireland in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act for repairing and preserving the Walls of the River Anna Liffey in the City of Dublin; and for amending an Act passed in the Twenty-sixth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled 'An Act for promoting the Trade of Dublin by rendering its Port more commodious.'"

7. Provided also, and be it enacted and declared, That neither this act nor any thing herein contained shall in anywise extend or be construed to extend to deprive or in any way prejudice the rights of her Majesty, her heirs or successors, nor to the taking away, abridging, or impeaching in any manner whatever the jurisdiction of the High Court of Admiralty, or the jurisdiction of the Admiralty Court of the Cinque Ports, two ancient towns and their

Masters of ships may repel unauthorized persons boarding them.

Nothing herein to be construed to repeal or affect 7 W. 4 & 1 Vict. c. 87, s. 8.

Nothing herein to alter or repeal the recited acts following: 6 G. 4, c. 125.

7 & 8 G. 4, c. 29.

9 G. 4, c. 65.

6 & 7 Vict. c. 79.

32 G. 3, c. 35.

Reservation of rights of the crown, of the High Court of Admiralty, and Admiralty of the Cinque Ports

THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.

members, but it shall and may be lawful for the said courts respectively, and the judges thereof for the time being, to have, use, exercise, and enjoy jurisdiction over all such matters, rights, and offences as they have heretofore used, exercised, and enjoyed, as fully and effectually, to all intents and purposes whatever, as if this act had not been made, any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Reservation of rights of the Trinity houses of Deptford Strand, Hull, Newcastle, and of the Humber commissioners.

48. Provided also, and be it enacted and declared, That nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to the taking away, abridging, hindering, prejudicing, or impeaching of any grant, liberties, franchises, and privileges heretofore granted to and vested in the corporation of the Trinity House of Deptford Strand, or in that of the Trinity House of Kingston-upon-Hull, or in the commissioners acting under the provisions of any act of parliament relating to the adjustment of salvage for anchors, cables, and other ships' materials found in the river Humber, or in the master, wardens, and brethren of the Trinity House of Newcastle-upon-Tyne respectively, but that the said corporations and the said commissioners, and the said masters, wardens, and brethren, shall hold and enjoy the same as fully and effectually, and to all intents and purposes, as they might have done in case this act had never been made, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Reservation of rights of the city of London.

49. And be it enacted and declared, That nothing in this act shall extend or be construed to extend to prejudice or take away any right, property, authority, or jurisdiction of the mayor of the city of London, or of the mayor and commonalty and citizens of the city of London, to, in, and upon the rivers Thames and Medway respectively.

Act not to extend to Scotland.

50. And be it enacted, That this act shall extend to all parts of the united kingdom except Scotland.

Interpretation of act.

51. And for the interpretation of this act, be it enacted, That the following terms and expressions, so far as they are not repugnant to the context of this act, shall be construed as follows; (that is to say,) the expression "Commissioners of the Treasury" shall mean "The Lord High Treasurer for the time being, or the Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury for the time being, or any three or more of them;" and the expression "Commissioners of Admiralty" shall mean "the Lord High Admiral of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland for the time being, or the Commissioners for executing the office of such Lord High Admiral, or two or more of them;" and the expression "High Court of Admiralty" shall mean the High Court of Admiralty of England, or the High Court of Admiralty of Ireland, according as the case may arise within the jurisdiction of one or the other of the said courts; and the singular number shall mean and apply to the plural as well as the singular number; and the masculine gender shall mean and apply to the feminine gender as well as the masculine gender.

Act may be amended, &c.

52. And be it enacted, That this act may be amended or repealed by any act to be passed in the present session of parliament.

SCHEDULES referred to in the foregoing Act.

SCHEDULE (A.)

On the day of in the year of our Lord
before, &c. at in the county of

[*Ship's Names.*] | [*Master's Names.*]

A. B. [here insert the names of the
salvors], against the said ship
whereof was master, her
tackle, apparel, and furniture, and
the goods, wares, and merchandize
on board the same, and also against
the said master, and the
owners of the said ship and cargo,
(or as the case may be,) against cer-
tain goods and merchandize lately
laden on board the said ship, whereof
was master, and also against
the said master and the
owners, [(or, if the owners alone ap-
pear by themselves or their agents,
then leave out the master's names,) of
the said goods and merchandizes,
(or as the case may be,) against cer-
tain goods and merchandizes, and
the owners of the said goods and mer-
chandizes,] in a case of salvage.

On which day appear personally W. X. of and Y. Z. of who produced themselves as sureties for the said master, and for the owners of the said ship and cargo, [or as the case may be,] for the said master and owners, [or as the case may be,] for the said owners of the said goods and merchandizes, and submitting themselves to the jurisdiction of the High Court of Admiralty of England, [or the High Court of Admiralty for Ireland, or the Court of Admiralty for the Cinque Ports, as the case may be,] bound themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, for the said master and owners of the said ship and cargo, [or as the case may be,] for the said master and owners, [or for the owners of the said goods and merchandizes,] in the sum of pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, unto the said A. B., &c., to answer the salvage and expenses of the said ship and cargo, [or as the case may be,] on the said goods and merchandizes, as shall hereafter be deemed by the said Court, according to the tenor of the act in that behalf made and provided; and unless they shall so do they hereby consent that execution shall issue forth against them, their heirs, executors and administrators' goods and chattels, wheresoever the same shall be found, to the value of the sum above mentioned.

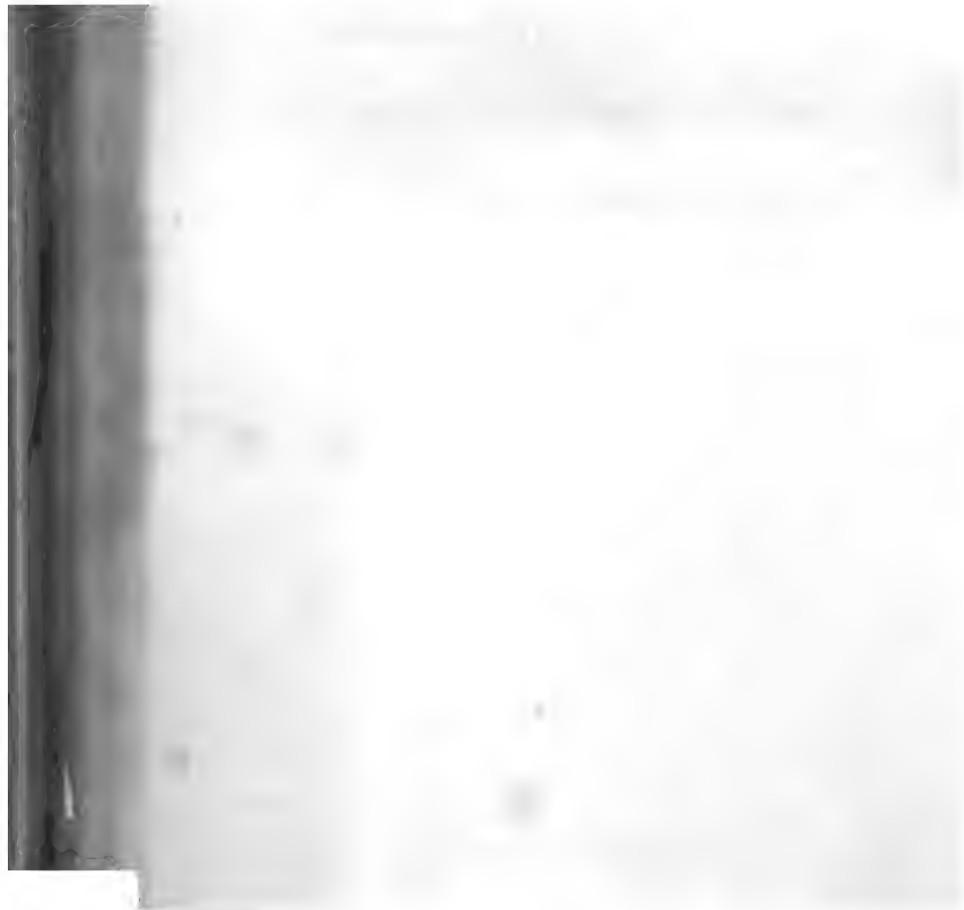
THE WRECK AND SALVAGE ACT.**SCHEDULE (B.)**

To A. B. of

In the matter of the vessel _____ of _____, whereof
C. D. was master, [or goods salved at _____.]Take notice, That the whole sum paid over to me, to be distributed for
salvage services rendered to the above-mentioned vessel [or goods] on
the _____ day of _____, 184_____. That the
sum allotted to you is £_____.E. F.
Distributor.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 184_____.









[]

